



Weekly Message

Feb. 9, 2016

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

During the State Board of Education's [regular business meeting Wednesday](#), the Illinois Arts Learning Standards Initiative will present its recommendations for new Illinois Learning Standards for the fine arts. Arts Alliance Illinois, a statewide advocate for arts education, has led this initiative in partnership with Illinois State Board of Education staff to bring together educators, organizations, and advocates from across the state to develop standards that reflect best practices.

This advisory committee used the National Core Arts Standards as the foundation for the proposed fine arts standards, adapting the national standards to the needs of Illinois students. The proposed standards will address the curricular areas of visual arts, music, theater, dance, and media arts and will emphasize learning through the artistic process instead of stressing only the artistic product developed by the student. The proposed standards will be published in the Illinois Register for public comment, and full implementation is planned for the 2017-18 school year.

The effort to implement new fine arts standards is part of a complete review and update of all Illinois Learning Standards to better prepare students for college and career readiness. In 2010, Illinois adopted the current Illinois Learning Standards in English language arts and math that are based on the Common Core State Standards. In 2014, the Board adopted science standards based on the Next Generation Science Standards and enhanced physical education standards. Last year, the Board adopted revised social science standards, and the rulemaking incorporating the new standards should be finalized later this month.

We are extremely pleased to have modern, comprehensive learning standards that are applicable and relevant to the issues and experiences students will encounter in their personal, professional, and civic lives. I am also especially excited about how our updated standards continue to give schools and educators amazing opportunities to transform the ways they challenge and connect with students to showcase their full potential. I look forward to the innovation and growth that lie ahead as we continue this important work.

Have a great week,
Tony

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Upcoming ISBE Dates and Deadlines

Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings, and deadlines. For questions, call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663 or (217) 782-4321 or visit the agency's official website at <http://www.isbe.net>.

- **2016 Illinois 5Essential Survey administration window** – Jan. 11-March 11
- **Rescheduled standard testing window for all districts using paper materials on the ACCESS for ELLs assessment** – Jan. 25 to Feb. 26
- **ISBE offices closed for Lincoln's Birthday** – Feb. 12
- **ISBE offices closed for Presidents' Day** – Feb. 15
- **Community Eligibility Provision webinar** – Feb. 18
(<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/46466832926124290>)
- **2016 Race to the Top Regional Networking meeting in Springfield** – March 8
(https://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0044-0016-65b6361786e043d0b0fdabc9a4b931b9)
- **ISBE webinar on employee evaluations** – March 9
(<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/427558662978929666>)
- **2016 Illinois Arts Education Week** – March 14-20
- **Deadline to submit applications for fiscal year 2016 federal Migrant Education Program funding for summer school programs** – March 15 (www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/20-37A-migrant-summer-app.pdf)
- **Deadline to enter the 2016 Illinois Fatherhood Initiative Chicago White Sox Fatherhood Essay Contest** – March 15 (www.4fathers.org/)
- **2016 Race to the Top Regional Networking meeting in Malta** – March 16
(https://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0044-0016-c8d8466d32ae4cd484d72e795ff6b0be)
- **Deadline to apply for 2016-17 School Grants for Healthy Kids** – April 1
(www.actionforhealthykids.org/grants)
- **Ninth annual Illinois School Wellness Conference** – April 28
- **ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day** – May 30
- **Deadline to submit nomination forms for the 2016-17 Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year program** – June 6 (www.isbe.net/those-who-excel/2017/03-10-twe-application16-17.pdf)
- **Deadline to submit data in the Student Health - Vision system** – June 30
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in fall 2016** – Aug. 12, 2016 (See www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)

Center for Performance

Register for Upcoming Employee Evaluations Webinar March 9

The Center for Performance and Data Analysis divisions will host a webinar on employee evaluations from **1 to 3 p.m. March 9**. Further communication that specifies which districts are required to participate is forthcoming. **While not all districts are required to participate in evaluations yearly, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) encourages all districts to attend the webinar.**

To register, go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/427558662978929666>.

The webinar will contain two sections: one for administrators that discusses evaluations from the statute perspective and one for data entry staff that outlines how to submit the evaluations through the Employment Information System (EIS). **ISBE recommends that participating districts have both an administrator and a data entry staff person attend the webinar.**

Employee evaluations were mandated in Senate Bill 315; Public Act 96-0861, which states in section 105 ILCS 5/24A-5 that:

“By no later than Sept. 1, 2012, each school district shall establish a teacher evaluation plan that ensures that:

- (1) each teacher not in contractual continued service is evaluated at least once every school year; and*
- (2) each teacher in contractual continued service is evaluated at least once in the course of every 2 school years. However, any teacher in contractual continued service whose performance is rated as either "needs improvement" or "unsatisfactory" must be evaluated at least once in the school year following the receipt of such rating.”*

For questions related to the statute, call the Center for Performance at (217) 782-3950. For questions related to EIS, call the Data Analysis Division at (217) 782-3950. For assistance with technical issues, call the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

Race to the Top

2016 Spring Regional Networking Meetings for Race to the Top

ISBE invites all Race to the Top districts to participate in the March 2016 Race to the Top Regional Networking meeting. This meeting will be held at two different locations to facilitate easier travel.

This year’s Race to the Top theme is “Equity and Transformation.” In later meetings, these themes will be applied to district- and school-level implementation. The meetings will introduce and expand on the new state goal of equity, including context, legislative proposals, and ideas for implementation.

For more information on the Illinois Equity Plan, please see the official documentation at www2.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/equitable/ilequityplan060115.pdf.

Any questions for the March facilitators (Dr. Jason Helfer and Dr. Anjale Welton) can be submitted in advance by emailing lea@isbe.net by Feb. 23. Time will be allotted for questions during the meetings as well.

The meeting dates and registration information is as follows:

- **Date:** March 8
- **Location:** Illinois State Board of Education, 100 N. First St., Springfield, Conference Room 4A+B
- **Time:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., registration begins at 9 a.m.
- **Registration information:**
https://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0044-0016-65b6361786e043d0b0fdabc9a4b931b9

The deadline to register for the March 8 event is **Feb. 23.**

- **Date:** March 16
- **Location:** Kishwaukee College, 21193 Malta Road, Malta
- **Time:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., registration begins at 9 a.m.
- **Registration information:**
https://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0044-0016-c8d8466d32ae4cd484d72e795ff6b0be

The deadline to register for the March 16 event is **March 9.**

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

Summer Food Service Program Information Sessions and Workshops

It’s only February but the Summer Food Service Program, also known as Summer Meals, is preparing for the 2016 summer session. The program is for non-profit sponsors or meal sites eligible by school data or census. If you know of schools or community organizations interested in participating, please refer them to the Information Sessions document at www.isbe.net/nutrition/PDF/sfsp-info-sessions-2016.pdf.

To register for an SFSP Workshop, please refer staff or organizations to <http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnsclendar/asp/eventlist.asp>.

Please remember that any school that operates a summer program in a building with a 50 percent or greater free and reduced-price percentage in the National School Lunch Program must serve a breakfast and/or a lunch to students in attendance.

These schools must also open their doors to children 18 and younger in the community to participate in the Seamless Summer Option or in Summer Meals, unless the regional superintendent has granted a waiver.

If you have questions about the Seamless Summer Option or Summer Meals, please call ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness Division at (800) 545-7892. You may also email cnp@isbe.net to order summer meals fliers so children in your community can locate the closest feeding site.

Applications Now Available for 2016-17 School Grants for Healthy Kids

Action for Healthy Kids is accepting School Grants for Healthy Kids applications for the 2016-17 school year. Schools may apply for School Breakfast grants (\$500 - \$5,000) to pilot or expand their School Breakfast programs or Game On Grants (\$500-\$2,500) to fund physical activity/nutrition initiatives. The deadline to apply is April 1.

Visit www.actionforhealthykids.org/grants for more information and register for the following informational webinars: [School Breakfast](#) (March 1) and [Game On](#) (March 2).

Those Who Excel

Illinois Teacher of the Year Applications Now Available

The 2016-17 Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year nomination form is available for completion online at www.isbe.net/those-who-excel/2017/03-10-twe-application16-17.pdf. Hard copies have been mailed.

Fill out the form using Internet Explorer, then print it out. Be sure to have your district superintendent or chief administrator sign the form. Attach the other required information and mail it to:

Illinois State Board of Education
Public Information Division
100 N. First St., S-404
Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001

Nominations must be postmarked by June 6. Please call Public Information at (217) 782-4648 if you have questions.

Illinois Fatherhood Initiative

2016 Illinois Fatherhood Initiative Chicago White Sox Fatherhood Essay Contest

The 2016 Illinois Fatherhood Initiative (IFI) Chicago White Sox Fatherhood Essay Contest is now open to all school-aged children in the state. This year's theme is "What My Father Means to Me."



All students submitting an essay through their school will receive a certificate of participation, a coupon sheet, and specially priced White Sox baseball game tickets.

One hundred and fifty-six finalists will be recognized at the May 22 Faces of Fatherhood Celebration at U.S. Cellular Field and watch a White Sox game. Twelve finalists will receive BrightStart College Scholarships and be invited with their fathers to the 2016 IFI Fatherhood Dinner Celebration in June. Four essayists and their fathers will be invited to a White Sox game to throw the pre-game ceremonial first pitch.

The top 25 participating schools will each receive a starter kit of fathering resources. All fathers who provide a "dad's response" to their child's essay will become charter members in the IFI 21st Century Dads Club.

The deadline for submissions is March 15. For more details and entry materials, visit www.4fathers.org/. For questions, email Wayne Sneed, project director, at 4fathers.sneed@gmail.com.

Rules and Waivers

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that three sets of amendments recently adopted by ISBE became effective Jan. 13.

Changes have been posted at www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm. Please choose

“Rules Currently in Effect” and scroll to the Part number.

Part 70 (Early Childhood Teacher Preparation Assistance Grant): The rulemaking affected the entire Part.

Part 226 (Special Education): See Sections 226.10, 226.60, 226.75, 226.100, 226.110, 226.120, 226.125, 226.130, 226.135, 226.150, 226.160, 226.180, 226.220, 226.230, 226.300, 226.320, 226.550, 226.560, 226.570, 226.710, 226.730, 226.731, 226.735, 226.770, 226.800, 226.810, 226.820, 226.830, 226.840, 226.850, and 226.860

Part 375 (Student Records): See Section 375.10

English Language Learning

Applications Available for FY 2016 Migrant Education Program Funding

The Division of English Language Learning is accepting applications for fiscal year 2016 federal Migrant Education Program funding for summer school programs in districts with qualifying migrant children under Title I, Part C, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The application is available at www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/20-37A-migrant-summer-app.pdf. The deadline for submitting applications is March 15.

Students who are 21 years old or younger and have not graduated from high school may be eligible if they have moved within the past three years due to economic necessity across state or school district lines with a parent or guardian or on their own to obtain temporary or seasonal work in agricultural production, fishing, or food processing industries. A certified recruiter must document that children qualify as migrant students.

The State Board can help districts identify eligible migrant children. To request assistance or for more information, contact Beth Robinson at berobins@isbe.net or (312) 814-3850.

School Health Issues

Opioid Antidote Guidance for Schools

Public Act 99-0480 (also known as House Bill 1 and Lali’s Law) created a pilot program and process by

which schools may stock an antidote to overdoses of opioid drugs in the schools.

The requirements in the legislation are many, with a number of state agencies carrying out various parts of the law. School officials and parents have taken note of recent news reports about the use of this drug (commonly referred to by the brand name Narcan® or the generic name naloxone hydrochloride) in schools. Adapt Pharma announced recently that it would provide a carton of Narcan free to all U.S. high schools. The company is also partnering with the National Association of School Nurses to provide educational materials. See www.adaptpharma.com/press-releases/.

School nurses and administrators who are interested in considering a policy on the use of this drug may want to review the [Illinois law](#). Prescriptions for the drug are required in Illinois, whether purchased or provided free to the school. Training is very specific and must meet the requirements of the act. In addition, a [report to ISBE](#) is required within three days of use of the drug.

ISBE, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) are working collaboratively to carry out the law.

ISBE’s rules regarding this law are forthcoming, and ISBE School Health Staff will provide as much information as is available during the IDPH [School Health Days](#) presentations Feb. 23 – March 3. For more information on school health issues, please visit www.isbe.net/school_health.htm.

School Health Update: Training Sessions

IDPH invites school nurses and others who provide school health services or assure compliance with student health requirements to attend one of five repeated training sessions this winter. The dates and locations are:

- Feb. 23 - Rend Lake Resort & Conference Center, 11712 E. Windy Lane, Whittington IL, 62897, (618) 629-2211
- Feb. 24 - Northfield Inn & Suites Center, 3280 Northfield Dr., Springfield IL 62702, (217) 523-7900

- March 1 - Radisson Hotel & Conference Center Rockford, 200 S. Bell School Road, Rockford IL 61108, (815) 226-2100
- March 2 - Hyatt-Lisle, 1400 Corporetum Drive, Lisle IL, 60532, (630) 852-1234 (*This location is full; no further registrations accepted*)
- March 3 - Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Chicago, 75 W. Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005, (847) 364-7600 (*This location is full; no further registrations accepted*)

To register for one of the open sessions, visit www.ipha.com and scroll down to “Illinois 2016 School Health Days.” Contact Marie Irwin at Marie.Irwin@illinois.gov with questions.

Vision and Hearing Conservation (Screening) Annual Reports

IDPH’s Vision and Hearing Program reminds schools that the Vision and Hearing Conservation (screening) annual reports are due no later than June 30. Although it is too soon to send completed reports now, schools are asked to use the current forms as the old forms do not contain the new address, telephone and fax numbers, among other changes. The PDF version of the new report form is available at www.dph.illinois.gov. Click on the “Forms and Publications” tab, then the “Forms” tab, and scroll down and click on “Vision and Hearing.”

Later this spring, the conservation reports will be available as an Excel report. The annual reports can be completed by using either the PDF or the Excel version. The report forms that are included in the training manuals are NOT to be used as they do not have all the changes or information.

School vision and hearing screening technicians may submit the completed summaries (PDF version) by fax to (217) 524-4201; by mail to the Illinois Department of Public Health, Vision and Hearing Program, 535 W. Jefferson, 3rd floor, Springfield, IL 62761; or by electronically submitting the Excel spreadsheets to the dph.visionandhearing@illinois.gov mailbox. IDPH officials ask that you do not submit your reports more than one time. Once your reports have been submitted, they will contact you if they have any questions.

For questions or assistance, please contact Nancy Katz at (708) 544-5300, ext. 248, or Mary Friel at (217) 524-2396.

IPHI Training: Pump Up P.E. for Physical Education Teachers

The Illinois Public Health Institute (IPHI) is offering a series of free, one-day trainings for physical education teachers. Professional development hours are available.

The training will cover topics including recent revisions to state learning standards on physical development and health and the benefits of enhanced P.E. for students’ health and academic achievement

For dates, locations, and registration for Cook County, go to http://iphionline.org/register_Cook_Co_PE_Trainings_1/.

For dates, locations, and registration for collar counties, go to http://iphionline.org/register_pump_up_pe_collar_counties.

Contact Sarah Chusid at (312) 850-4744 or Sarah.Chusid@iphionline.org for more information.

Funding and Disbursements

Rollout of New I-Star System 2016-17

All local education agencies are formally advised that ISBE is on target to roll out the new I-Star system for the 2016-17 school year. I-Star is the new ISBE web-based special education database system and data management tool for all districts and joint agreements. I-Star incorporates all aspects of student and personnel approvals and claims as well as an optional individualized education program component. The current iePoint> software and data transmissions will be eliminated in favor of I-Star.

Some of the features of the new I-Star system include:

- Access via ISBE’s IWAS portal. Local administrators will assign security to specific staff and access to modules within I-Star as appropriate.
- All student demographic information will be populated from the Student Information System, eliminating duplication and overlapping entries between local education agencies.
- Personnel data will be populated from the Employment Information and Educator Licensure Information Systems.

- Feedback of all user entries and verification of data with ISBE systems in I-Star are in real time.

Through the 2015-16 school year, pilot sites around the state have been testing the new I-Star system. A list of pilot sites is at

www.hbug.k12.il.us/IStar/pilot_sites.aspx. Feedback and enhancements are being tested and implemented in advance of full integration of I-Star beginning in the 2016-17 school year.

Training, questions, and further information on I-Star can be accessed via Harrisburg Project's I-Star webpage at www.hbug.k12.il.us/IStar/default.aspx.

Important Changes to Dec. 1 Special Education Child Count Reporting

Federal regulation at 34 CFR 300.641 requires that all local education agencies (LEAs) annually collect and report an accurate and unduplicated number of children with disabilities receiving special education and related services. Further, 105 ILCS 5/2-3.30 of the School Code requires that students reported must be eligible to receive services or be in a special education program receiving direct or related services approved by a public school district on Dec. 1, be at least age 3 through age 21, inclusive (i.e., through the day before the student's 22nd birthday) (see 34 CFR 300.101(a)), and have an individualized education program or individualized services plan in place.

The federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) requires that all state education agencies report special education students counted on Dec. 1 by the following April each year. For the 2015-16 school year, the due date for state reporting is April 6. For many years, ISBE has met the federal April deadline but has permitted LEAs to add unreported students receiving services on Dec. 1 on subsequent approval transmissions through June 30. This flexibility has created a variety of problems, including, but not limited to:

- An inaccurate count to compute the state's annual IDEA Part B grant award
- Data integrity related to the submission of the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) and monitoring

- Inability to timely compute the state's maintenance of effort and LEA nonpublic proportionate share of IDEA Part B funds

Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, all students receiving special education and related services on Dec. 1, 2015, must be reported with the March 4 approval transmission. To help with this process, ISBE will provide a report listing all students that are identified as duplicates by early February. These duplicates must be resolved before the March 4 transmission. After the March 4 transmission is received and processed at ISBE, reports listing your official child count number will be sent to you. There will be a short validation period to confirm that this number is correct or to transmit another approval file with additions. The deadline for the validation period is March 21. Please be advised that the Dec. 1, 2015, child count reported to OSEP on April 6 will constitute the state's official 2015-16 special education count.

All LEAs can continue to report additions and changes for students with disabilities on subsequent approval transmissions for the 2015-16 school year through June 30, but no changes will be made to the official Dec. 1 count. All 2015-16 special education approval and claim dates can be accessed at www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/sped-due-dates-15-16.pdf.

Questions regarding the FACTS approval procedures should be directed to Jamie Johnson at jjohnson@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256

Questions pertaining to the operation of iePoint or NetCheck should be directed to the Harrisburg Project at (800) 635-5274 or support@hbug.k12.il.us.

New Census Estimates Released for FY 2017 Title I Low Income

The U.S. Department of Education has released the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) for income year 2014. These estimates will be used to calculate fiscal year 2017 Title I allocations. A file of 2014 Poverty Data by Local Education Agency (LEA) is provided in an alphabetical listing of LEAs, Poverty Count, 5-17 Population, Poverty Percentage and Total Population at www.isbe.net/funding/excel/title1-census-fy17.xlsx.

With this data, LEAs can determine their potential eligibility for Basic, Concentration, Targeted and Education Finance Incentive grants.

Basic Grant eligibility: An LEA must have at least 10 poverty children and the number of poverty children must be greater than 2 percent of the LEA population of children ages 5-17.

Concentration Grant eligibility: An LEA must have at least 6,500 poverty children or the number of those children exceeds 15 percent of the total 5-17 population.

Targeted Grant and EFIG qualifications: An LEA must have at least 10 poverty children and that number must be at least 5 percent of the 5-17 population.

The following link to the Census Bureau, www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/index.html, provides various aspects of the SAIPE count, including the data sources and methodology used to prepare these data. We will be using the 2014 data to calculate school year 2016-17 Title I, Part A allocations because they are the most recent available data.

Superintendents, business managers, and Title I directors should carefully examine the data for their LEA as this will be the first indication as to whether your LEA may be gaining or losing in eligibility for Title I funds in FY 2017. ISBE neither controls nor generates the data. The challenge period for the 2014 estimates ends March 8. Refer to the Census Bureau link at www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/contact/challenges.html, if interested.

Note that this preliminary data does not include other non-census information, such as foster, neglected, or delinquent counts that may be used to calculate Title I allocations.

If you have questions, please contact Sally Cray in the Division of Funding and Disbursements at scray@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256.

In Brief

School Opportunities

- The **Kid Explorer Club** is a comprehensive reading curriculum for pre-K through sixth grades

that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards. The curriculum is diversity inclusive, enhances the student's existing school education, and is customized to overcome individual learning challenges. Students at Title I schools qualify for a tuition grant that will cover nearly 100 percent of the tuition cost. To become a host site for the summer or next school year, contact Regional Director Beatrice Cooper at (773) 672-7492, ext. 1, or beatrice@kidsexplorerclub.com. The deadline to apply is April 8.

Educator Opportunities

- The **Chicago Foundation for Education** will award 25 to 30 Study Group Coach Grants to preK-8 Chicago public school teachers in March, giving them the chance to develop and facilitate their own professional learning communities. The application is available at www.cfegrants.org, and the deadline to apply is Feb. 15.

School Recognition

- **Mattoon High School** has received Print ED accreditation, effective January 2016 through January 2021, in the following five areas: Introduction to Graphic Communications, Digital File Preparation and Output, Graphic Design, Offset Press Operations/Bindery & Finishing, and Screen Printing. Congratulations to Mattoon's staff and students!

Student Recognition

- Three high school students who received awards in the **2015 Illinois Arts Education Week** poster contest were recently recognized at the Student Show Reception during the Illinois Art Education Association Conference. The students are: Jessa Mae Mendiola of Hinsdale South High School in Darien, Jeremiah Yang of Glenbrook South High School in Glenview, and Becca Timko, also of Hinsdale South High School.

Employment Opportunities

- Watch for vacancy lists and find instructions for applying on ISBE's Human Resources webpage at <http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm>.