



Weekly Message

Feb. 15, 2017

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

As State Superintendent, I have made it a priority to learn about and share the successes of districts across the state to encourage innovation. All of our communities benefit when we exchange ideas and discuss the barriers that we have overcome to help our students thrive. There are times when it is difficult, or we do not have the resources to fulfill every request, but it's important to listen and support each other in finding ways to collaboratively reach our goals and meet the needs of our students. One of ISBE's primary goals this year is to encourage districts to move from a culture of competition to a culture of collaboration. We plan to facilitate more partnerships between districts through a multi-tiered system of support so that you can help each other directly.

Table of Contents

Apprenticeship Plus Youth Program.....	3
Educator Effectiveness.....	3
School Technology	3
Teaching and Learning	3
Nutrition and Wellness Programs.....	4
Every Student Succeeds Act.....	5
School Business Services	5
Charter Schools.....	6
Rules and Waivers	6
School Health Issues	6
Funding and Disbursements	6
In Brief.....	7

The Illinois Powered by Teach to Lead Summit offers one such opportunity for cross-district collaboration. The summit, a partnership between the U.S. Department of Education (ED), the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, ASCD, and the Illinois Teacher Leadership Network, will be held on April 24 in Bloomington. It will give schools a platform to highlight their groundbreaking work as well as the tools they need to develop concrete plans to address issues in their districts. Participants will receive individualized support and will have access to networking opportunities with other districts. I encourage you to [submit a proposal here](#) to participate in the summit. Proposals are due March 1. For more information on the summit, watch this [Teach to Lead video](#) developed by ED.

So much great learning and idea exchange has happened at the annual Statewide ESSA Conference in Chicago this week. I am energized by how ISBE staff, districts across the state, and important stakeholder organizations have engaged around ESSA – how they are working together and challenging each other to employ classroom and school improvement strategies to better serve our children. ESSA offers new opportunities for support, collaboration, and innovation, and ISBE wants to be more of a service center for districts. As we move forward, we will continue to build and adapt our relationships to meet districts' changing needs.

Finally, I am excited to congratulate Joliet Township High School District 204 for being named a [College Board Advanced Placement® District of the Year](#). The award recognizes the district as the nation's leader among small-sized school districts in expanding access to these challenging courses

while increasing the percentage of students who receive a 3 or higher on the exams. I am inspired by the hard work of educators, students, and families at JTHS and their commitment to providing all students with greater opportunities for exposure to college-level coursework. The district was one of 433 school districts across the United States and Canada selected for the seventh annual AP District Honor Roll. Congratulations to the 20 other Illinois districts that were recognized! See the full list [here](#). Illinois continues to report record numbers of graduates taking AP exams and we continue to lead the nation in eliminating gaps for lower-income students and students of color in our high schools' most rigorous courses.

Keep up the great work!

Tony

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>.

- **Deadline to enter USDA's 'Show Us Your Tray Challenge'** – Feb. 15
- **Deadline to submit applications for Gifted Advisory Council** – Feb. 16
- **ISBE offices closed for Presidents Day** – Feb. 20
- **State Board of Education Meeting** – Feb. 22
- **Deadline to submit FY 18 Notice of Intent to Submit Proposal for the Prevention Initiative: Birth to 3 Years RFP** – Feb. 28 (www.isbe.net/Pages/Birth-to-Age-3-Years.aspx)
- **Deadline to submit FY 18 Notice of Intent to Submit Proposal for the Preschool for All Expansion Grant: 3 to 5 Years RFP** – Feb. 28 (www.isbe.net/Pages/Preschool-Development-Grant-Expansion-Grant.aspx)
- **Deadline to submit FY 18 Notice of Intent to Submit Proposal for the Preschool for All: 3 to 5 Years RFP** – Feb. 28 (www.isbe.net/Pages/Preschool-For-All.aspx)
- **Deadline to submit QZAB Program applications** – Feb. 28 (www.isbe.net/Pages/Qualified-Zone-Academy-Bonds.aspx)
- **Deadline to submit proposals for Illinois Teach to Lead Summit** – March 1
- **Deadline to submit application for TECH 2017** – March 8 (<http://iceberg.org/tech>.)
- **Deadline to submit Migrant Education Program applications** – March 10 (www.isbe.net/Documents/20-37A-FY17-SUMMER-all-12-19-2016-Secured.pdf)
- **2017 Illinois Arts Education Week** – March 13-19
- **Deadline to submit Charter School Program - QSO RFP** – March 20
- **Nonpublic/Public School ESSA Conference** – April 5 (www.isbe.net/nonpublicprograms)
- **Every Kid Healthy Week** – April 24-28
- **ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day** – May 29
- **Deadline to submit nomination forms for the 2017-18 Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year program** – June 6 (www.isbe.net/Documents/03-10-those-who-excel.pdf)
- **Deadline to submit data in the Student Health Data Vision** – June 30
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in fall 2017**– Aug. 11 (See www.isbe.net/Pages/Waivers.aspx for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)

Apprenticeship Plus Youth Program

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity announces the release of a competitive grant opportunity to support the Governor's Cabinet on Children and Youth Apprenticeship Plus initiative in Illinois. A summary of the grant application is available at <https://www.illinoisworknet.com/youthnofo>. This funding opportunity is limited to youth apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships for youth between the ages of 16-24 within three regions of the state.

An informative webinar will be held at 1 p.m. on Feb. 21 to provide organizations with information regarding the NOFO application requirements. For more information and to register for the webinar, please visit <https://youthnofo.eventbrite.com>.

Educator Effectiveness

National Board Certification Candidate Fee Subsidy Now Available

The Illinois State Board of Education is pleased to announce the opening of the 2017 spring window for the Illinois \$1,900 NBPTS Candidate Fee Subsidy. The National Board Resource Center at Illinois State University will process applications for eligible Illinois teachers and counselors. National Board Certification offers a way for accomplished teachers to be assessed and recognized and a way for parents to know their child's teacher has met high and rigorous standards.

For more information, please visit <http://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/>.

School Technology

K-5 Computer Science Fundamentals Workshops

The Learning Technology Centers have partnered with Code.org to provide seven low-cost, hands-on Computer Science workshops throughout the state. Topics covered include computational thinking, a computer science word wall, classroom strategies, programming with kids, and lots of "unplugged" classroom activities ready for immediate adoption. Attendees receive free curriculum guides and

strategies. Among other takeaways, you will learn that yes! you can teach computer science.

Dates & Locations: April 3 (Edwards), April 4 (Freeport), April 6 (Centralia), April 7 (Carterville), April 11 (Geneva), April 12 (Ottawa), April 13 (Champaign)

For more information, including agenda and registration information, visit <http://bit.ly/ilcomputerscience17>.

Teaching and Learning

Seeking Participants for Illinois Teach to Lead Summit

The Illinois Teach to Lead Summit will take place in Bloomington on April 24 and is a result of collaboration between the Illinois Teacher Leadership Network (ITLN) and the U.S. Department of Education (ED). This is an exceptional opportunity for teachers and administrators to develop concrete plans to solve local issues in their districts and a powerful way for schools to spotlight groundbreaking work.

Please consider submitting a proposal to participate in the summit. If your proposal is selected, participation in the summit will provide you access to:

- Support in Bloomington from the ED, ITLN, ASCD, National Board, and other districts to help push your thinking and form your strategic plan,
- Opportunities to participate in pre/post- summit webinars with ED and ITLN to inspire and engage you in the process,
- Tools, support, and expertise to help you turn your ideas into action,
- Networking opportunities with other districts, and
- A personal coach for your team who will work with you on your idea before the summit and on the day of the summit and will also follow up with you after the summit.

Proposals are due by **March 1**. To submit a proposal, please visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/illinoissummit.

For more information on the summit, go to ieanea.org/2017/01/20/opportunity-illinois-powered-by-teach-to-lead-summit/.

If you have further questions about this incredible opportunity, please contact Pam Reilly at reillyreillypc@gmail.com.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

SNA Presents Mushroom Contest for School Nutrition Professionals

The [School Nutrition Association](#) is teaming up with the [Mushroom Council](#) to offer a contest promoting the use of mushrooms in school recipes and farm-to-school efforts.

Entries can feature a meat-mushroom blend or highlight fresh or cooked mushrooms. Blending mushrooms into burgers, sloppy joes, marinara sauces, and tacos are some of the creative ways school nutrition professionals can incorporate more mushrooms into student meals.

The grand-prize winner of the “Blend the Rules” contest will receive a \$5,000 Farm to School Grant. Up to two runner-ups will be awarded a \$1,500 Farm to School Grant. Additional districts will receive mushroom growing kits.

Here are a couple helpful resources from the Mushroom Council to help schools get started:

- [Farm to School: Mushroom Harvest of the Month Kit](#)
- [Mushroom Fact Sheet](#)

Mushrooms can be from anywhere in the United States or IQF mushrooms procured through the USDA Foods program. The deadline to enter is April 27. For more information, visit <http://www.mushroomsinschools.com/blend-the-rules/>.

Summer Food Service Program Information Sessions for New Sponsors and Sites

It’s only February but the Summer Food Service Program, also known as Summer Meals, is preparing for the 2017 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 [2017 Summer Meals Information Session document](#) for the information session schedule. These

sessions provide information only. For training on the program, organizations must attend one of the SFSP New Sponsor Training Workshops.

To register for a mandatory new sponsor SFSP Training Workshop, please refer staff or organizations to <http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnsalendar/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 meal site.

School Nutrition Association Seeks Award Nominations and Contest Entries

Do you know a stellar kitchen manager, outstanding cook, or inspiring school nutrition director in your school district? Nominate a colleague you admire for a School Nutrition Association award and show them how much you appreciate their hard work! The School Nutrition Association (SNA) is accepting nominations online for the Employee, Manager, and Director of the Year.

To submit a nomination, visit www.schoolnutrition.org/SNAawards. Nominations are due by **March 1**.

SNA is also asking schools to take the School Breakfast Challenge for National School Breakfast Week (**March 6-10**) with an Instagram photo contest. Share what your school is doing in a fun and creative way. You can participate by following three easy steps:

1. Snap a photo using your phone

2. Tag it with #NSBWChallenge, #SchoolBreakfast, and @SchoolNutritionAssoc
3. Upload the photo(s) to Instagram

Participants can participate in four breakfast categories, but will only be eligible to win in one. A judging panel will determine the winners and they will be notified the week of March 20. For complete rules or to download the flier, visit www.schoolnutrition.org/Meetings/Events/NSBW/2017/PhotoContest. Please remember all students need to have a signed parental consent form in order to use their image.

Every Student Succeeds Act

Draft of ESSA State Plan 3 Released

The draft of the Illinois' ESSA State Plan 3 has been released and shared with the Governor. The draft is available at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ESSA-Draft-Report.aspx>.

ESSA State Plan 3 reflects feedback on accountability, assessments, and a statewide system of support, among other topics, for all schools in Illinois. Input is still being accepted. For more information on the Every Student Succeeds Act, visit <https://www.isbe.net/essa>.

Nonpublic/Public School ESSA Conference

The Illinois State Board of Education is hosting its first Nonpublic/Public ESSA Conference on April 5 in Urbana. ISBE hopes to see this become an annual event by which all members of the Illinois K-12 world can be brought together to discuss and share their common concerns, problems, joys, solutions. This year's conference will focus on the new relationship between public school districts and their associated nonpublic schools that will emerge from the Every Student Succeeds Act, which takes effect in fiscal year 2018. There is no fee to attend this one-day event, and lunch will be provided. Keynote speakers include Maureen Dowling, director for the Office of Non-Public Education in the U.S. Department of Education, and Jason Helfer, deputy superintendent for Teaching and Learning at ISBE.

For more information about the conference and to register for the event, please visit www.isbe.net/nonpublicprograms. In registering, be sure to click on the correct radio button just above where you type in your name to ensure you will have the correct selection of drop-down lists.

For questions, please contact the Title Grants Administration Division at (217) 524-4832.

School Business Services

QZAB Program for Calendar Years 2015 & 2016 Authorization

The Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) program has been extended for another year as a result of the passage of the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-113). The implementing regulations provide that Illinois' share of these allocations is \$14.372 million for both calendar years 2015 and 2016 for a total of \$28.744 million.

School Business Services will be accepting applications Feb. 7- March 3. Please note the following:

- Preference will be given to school districts that did not receive the Qualified School Construction Bonds.
- City of Chicago School District 299 can apply for a maximum of 20 percent of the amount authorized for Illinois.
- If more requests are received than the total allotment allowed, awards will be prorated among the approved applications.

All applications must be submitted to the address provided below with all supplemental materials and final signatures completed by 4 p.m. on Feb. 28.

Illinois State Board of Education
School Business Services (QZAB)
100 N. 1st Street
Springfield, IL 62777

For additional information and to obtain the application, please visit www.isbe.net/Pages/Qualified-Zone-Academy-

[Bonds.aspx](#). If you need additional information, please contact Kimberly Beachy at (217) 785-8779.

Charter Schools

Illinois State Charter School Commission Best Practice Report

Local school boards and superintendents interested in taking advantage of the Illinois' \$42 million Charter School Program (CSP) grant award are invited to review a new best practice report presented by the Illinois State Charter School Commission. Local districts are encouraged to consider developing a proactive, strategic and priority-focused approach to charter school development. This succinct report provides practical guidance and resources to “*develop and manage a high-quality process to request and evaluate charter school proposals.*” The report is available at www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Charter-School-Commission.aspx.

Charter Schools Program – QSO – Request for Proposals Now Available

The electronic Charter Schools Program - QSO Program Design and Initial Implementation Request for Proposals (RFP)-Cohort II is now available through IWAS. All responses must be submitted electronically to ISBE by 4 p.m. on March 20.

Any applicants interested in applying will need to submit the Letter of Intent to Apply Form in order to gain electronic access to the RFP. The Letter of Intent to Apply and further grant information can be found at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Charter-Schools.aspx>.

If you have questions, please email charter@isbe.net or call Charter Schools at (312) 814-2220.

Rules and Waivers

Invitation to Comment on Rules

Four sets of proposed amendments recently reviewed by ISBE are now available for public comment. The proposals and a summary of the issues involved have been posted at www.isbe.net/Pages/Rules.aspx; choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net. The public comment period ends March 26.

The rulemakings are: Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision), Part 20 (Standards for Endorsements in Elementary Education), Part 26 (Standards for Endorsements in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education), and Part 50 (Evaluation of Educator Licensed Employees under Articles 24a and 34 of the School Code).

School Health Issues

IDPH and ISBE Working to Issue Guidance on P.A. 099-0922 Lead In Water Testing

On Jan. 17, Governor Rauner signed Senate Bill 550 into law ([Public Act 099-0922](#)). The Act aims to reduce children's exposure to lead by requiring each school that serves pre-K through grade 5 students to test its water for lead. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is mandated to administer these requirements and to provide guidance on risk management and mitigation of lead in water, and education about lead poisoning. The Act states that IDPH will publish guidance for schools on its website within 90 days from Jan. 17. IDPH is currently creating an informational pamphlet that will soon be distributed to districts and posted on both the [IDPH](#) and [ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness](#) websites. For questions, please contact dph.LeadH2O@illinois.gov.

Funding and Disbursements

New Census Estimates Released for FY 2018 Title I Low Income

The U.S. Department of Education has released the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) for income year 2015. These estimates will be used to calculate FY 2018 Title I allocations. A file of 2015 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 <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/New-Census-Estimates-Released.aspx>

LEAs can use this data to determine their potential eligibility for Basic, Concentration, Targeted and Education Finance Incentive grants (EFIG).

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 2015 data to calculate school year 2017-18 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 2018. ISBE neither controls nor generates the data. The challenge period for the 2015 estimates ends March 13, 2017. 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

District Opportunities

- The deadline for applications for **TECH 2017** has been extended to March 8. TECH 2017 showcases how students and teachers across the state use technology in classrooms to enhance student learning and is scheduled for May 9 at the Illinois State Capitol Building in Springfield. Find out more information, including how your district can

be one of the 100 schools representing Illinois, at <http://iceberg.org/tech>.

District Recognition

- Congratulations to [Haines Elementary School](#) for being named the 2017 Illinois National Title I Distinguished School. Keep up the great work!

Community Resources

- World Read Aloud Day is Feb. 16!** To help all families harness the power of reading aloud, Scholastic and LitWorld are providing free resources for kids, families, and educators to help spread the joy of reading aloud and plan their own read aloud celebrations. The same Kids & Family Reading Report shows the frequency of reading aloud to young children five to seven days a week has increased since 2014 among parents with kids ages 3-5 (55 percent to 62 percent), but there is still much work to be done. For more information and classroom resources, visit <http://www.litworld.org/wrad/>.

Volunteer Recognition Opportunity

- Serve Illinois presents the **Governor's Volunteer Service Awards**. These awards recognize individual volunteers through a statewide award program to highlight the importance of volunteerism and community service in the State of Illinois. Awards are given to one youth, adult, senior, AmeriCorps member, Senior Corps volunteer, and business in each of Illinois' five regions. Winners of the awards will be honored at a special ceremony at the Old State Capitol in Springfield on April 25. To nominate a volunteer, please visit www.serve.illinois.gov. Applications are due by **Feb. 17**.

Educator Opportunities

- ROE West 40 ISC #2 is hosting the **Midwest Summit for 21st Century Learning** from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. on May 1 in Oak Brook. To register, please visit www.mws.2017.eventbrite.com.

Professional Development

- The **National Board Resource Center (NBRC)** is seeking administrators interested in a research-based ongoing professional development opportunity. There are currently forty-seven National Board

Professional Development Schools in Illinois led by administrator leaders. The NBRC is expanding this program to include an additional 25 schools/districts to take part in this opportunity during the 2017-18 school year. This program is school based and includes several research-based instructional strategies that focus on implementing effective teaching approaches that nurture critical thinking. Application deadline is March 27. Call Debra Kasperski at (309) 438-1833 for more information or to set up an appointment.

- The **Illinois High School & College Driver Education Association (IHSCDEA)** has developed a new format this year to service the State of Illinois driver education teacher education needs. The IHSCDEA and Northern Illinois University have joined together to offer the IHSCDEA Professional Development Program. Complete course overviews, costs, and enrollment information can be found at www.IHSCDEA.org by clicking on "CERTIFICATION" and looking for the IHSCDEA-PDP details.

Employment Opportunities

- Watch for ISBE career opportunities and find instructions for applying at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx>.