



# Weekly Message

**Feb. 23, 2016**

## Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

I would like to share some outstanding news about a former Illinois Teacher of the Year whose exceptional instruction is earning him worldwide accolades. Last week, Joe Fatheree of Effingham High School was named a top 10 finalist for the 2016 Varkey Foundation [Global Teacher Prize](#). Dubbed the “Nobel Prize” for teaching, the honor awards \$1 million to a remarkable educator who has made a significant contribution to teaching and also illustrates teachers’ crucial role in society.

Joe started teaching more than 25 years ago. Early on, he realized his students did not respond to the methods he learned while training to become a teacher. Joe worked with students to develop a series of lessons to meet his objectives and keep them engaged, including a project that used hip hop music to explore literature. His creativity paid off, and Joe saw an improvement in students’ attendance, discipline, and overall achievement.



Joe currently teaches media production and innovation. He helps his students learn by producing music, books, and short films on topics including poverty, death, bullying, homelessness, and human rights. His students use 3D printing and drone technology in their projects, build educational games for young children using Minecraft, and engage in public speaking. Joe blends project-based learning with opportunities for students to work with industry leaders and local businesses.

Joe’s passion, commitment, and effectiveness led to his selection as the 2007 Illinois Teacher of the Year. Two years later, he received the NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence. Joe has developed a program that encourages graduates to return home to develop start-ups. This program now operates in more than 30 cities. He is also an advisor to the Independent Television Service and has helped develop learning materials for millions of students across the United States. More information and a video about Joe’s impressive accomplishments are available [here](#). He also discusses his recent recognition [here](#).

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In December, Joe and three other Illinois educators - Jacqueline Lopushonsky of Lincoln Elementary School (Wheaton), Paul Solarz of Westgate Elementary School (Arlington Heights), and Mark Vondracek of Evanston Township High School – were selected from 8,000 nominations and applications from 148 countries as top 50 finalists for the Global Teaching Prize. Stephen Hawking announced the top 10 finalists in a [video message](#) on Feb. 17. The winner will be named at the Global Education and Skills Forum in Dubai on March 13.

Congratulations, Joe! We are so proud of your professional excellence and dedication to high-quality learning both inside and outside of the classroom.

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
- **Deadline to complete the FY 16 Request for Proposal Intent to Apply for the Charter Schools Program Grant** – March 1 ([www.isbe.net/charter/pdf/43-48A-charter-rfp-16-intent-to-apply.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/charter/pdf/43-48A-charter-rfp-16-intent-to-apply.pdf))
- **“SNP – An Overview of Food Insecurity and Child Nutrition Programs in Illinois” webinar** – March 3 (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2414476230016284673>)
- **2016 Race to the Top Regional Networking meeting in Springfield** – March 8 ([https://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event\\_page.aspx?ek=0044-0016-65b6361786e043d0b0fdabc9a4b931b9](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](http://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/](http://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](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](http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/grants))
- **Deadline to register for Seal of Biliteracy Symposium** – April 1 (<http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/>)
- **Illinois Healthy & High-Performing Green Schools Symposium** – April 8 ([www.usgbc-illinois.org/events/schoolssymposium/](http://www.usgbc-illinois.org/events/schoolssymposium/))
- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) and Part 27 (Standards for Endorsements in Specific Teaching Fields)** – Public comment ends April 11
- **Seal of Biliteracy Symposium** – April 12
- **Deadline to submit the Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP) FY 2017 RFP** – April 25

- 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](http://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](http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm) for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)

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## Special Education Services

### Information on the Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program RFP

Two bidders' conferences for the Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP) Request for Proposal (RFP) are scheduled for March. The first will take place from 8 to 10:15 a.m. March 4 at the Marriott Bloomington-Normal Conference Center. The second conference will be conducted via webinar from 1 to 3 p.m. on March 15.

Registration is not required for the Bloomington conference, which will be held in Redbird rooms C and D at the conference center, located at 201 Broadway in Normal.

To register for the webinar, go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4366687711903399426>.

Eligible applicants for the 2017 TAOEP RFP will receive a notice through IWAS when the application is available in their accounts. Applications should be available no later than Feb. 29. The deadline for submitting the TAOEP RFP is noon April 25.

For additional information, contact Sally Veach or V. Sue Taylor in ISBE's Special Education Services Division at (217) 782-5589, [sveach@isbe.net](mailto:sveach@isbe.net), or [vtaylor@isbe.net](mailto:vtaylor@isbe.net).

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## Illinois Green Ribbon Schools

### Registration Open: Illinois Green Schools Symposium Scheduled for April 8

The Illinois chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council invites educators to attend the 2016 Illinois Healthy & High-Performing Green Schools Symposium on April 8 in Chicago.

The event will feature national guest speakers, breakout sessions, exhibits, and opportunities to network on sustainable, cost-reducing best practices. Learning session topics will be organized around the three pillars of the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Award:

- Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact: waste, water, and energy costs
- Pillar II: Improve health and wellness of students and staff: air quality, thermal comfort, lighting, nutrition and fitness
- Pillar III: Environmental literacy: cross-curricular content, Go-Green communities, school gardens.

Attendance is free to school administrators, teachers, students, and volunteers.

- **Illinois Healthy & High-Performing Green Schools Symposium**
- **Date:** April 8
- **Time:** 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Location:** Gwendolyn Brooks College Prep Academy, Chicago
- **Register:** [www.usgbc-illinois.org/events/schoolssymposium/](http://www.usgbc-illinois.org/events/schoolssymposium/)

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## Rules and Waivers

### Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that five sets of amendments recently adopted by ISBE became effective Jan. 27.

Changes have been posted at [www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm). Please choose "Rules Currently in Effect" and scroll to the Part number.

**Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision):** See Sections 1.310, 1.420, 1.425, 1.530, 1.705, 1.APPENDIX A and 1.APPENDIX D

**Part 30 (Programs for the Preparation of Principals in Illinois):** See Section 30.20

**Part 180 (Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools):** See Sections 180.10, 180.30, 180.60, 180.100, 180.200, 180.225, 180.230, 180.250, 180.320, 180.330, 180.500 and 180.APPENDIX A

**Part 260 (Reading Improvement Program):** See Section 260.55

**Part 675 (Providers of Supplemental Educational Services):** See Sections 675.20 and 675.APPENDIX A

### Invitation to Comment on Rules

Two sets of proposed amendments recently reviewed by ISBE are available for public comment. The proposals and a summary of the issues involved have been posted at [www.isbe.net/rules](http://www.isbe.net/rules); choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to [rules@isbe.net](mailto:rules@isbe.net). The public comment period ends April 11. The rulemakings are:

- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)**
- **Part 27 (Standards for Endorsements in Specific Teaching Fields)**

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### English Language Learning

#### Seal of Biliteracy Symposium on April 12

ISBE will host a Seal of Biliteracy Symposium from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 12 at National Louis University’s Lisle campus, 850 Warrenville Road in Lisle.

The symposium will provide an opportunity for districts to share information and resources for setting up the program, review the program outcomes, and discuss ideas for future development. This half-day event will include presentations by field experts and researchers that address pathways to biliteracy for students from preschool through high school. Secondary educators who are developing the programs in districts also will share their experiences.

The deadline to register for this free event is April 1. Registration is online at <http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/>.

Please email [biliteracy@isbe.net](mailto:biliteracy@isbe.net) or contact the Division of English Language Learning at (312) 814-3850 with any questions.

- **Seal of Biliteracy Symposium**
- **Date:** April 12
- **Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Location:** National Louis University’s Lisle campus, 850 Warrenville Rd.
- **Register:**  
<http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/>

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### Charter Schools

#### Deadline Extended for Charter School Program Grant RFP Intent to Apply

The deadline for design teams to complete the fiscal year 2016 Request for Proposal Intent to Apply for the Charter Schools Program Grant has been extended to March 1. The Intent to Apply is necessary in order to access the secure online RFP to be released this year. The form is posted at [www.isbe.net/charter/pdf/43-48A-charter-rfp-16-intent-to-apply.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/charter/pdf/43-48A-charter-rfp-16-intent-to-apply.pdf).

For any questions, please contact Claudia Quezada at [cquezada@isbe.net](mailto:cquezada@isbe.net) or (217) 524-4832.

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### Nutrition and Wellness Programs

#### New Rules: PE Assessment and Data Collection and Reporting

[Public Act 98-0859](#) created the Stakeholder and Expert Task Force on Physical Education. The purpose of this task force was to submit recommendations for ISBE to consider for adopting rules for implementation of physical fitness assessments as well as the collection and reporting of aggregate fitness information.

The assessment to be used in schools would measure “aerobic capacity, body composition, muscular strength, muscular endurance and flexibility” of students in grades 3 and above in order to ascertain the effectiveness of Goal 20 of the Illinois Learning Standards for physical development and health, which is to achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness based upon continual self-assessment.

The task force submitted its recommendations to ISBE on April 1, 2015, and after seeking public comment,



ISBE adopted rules based on these recommendations. These rules went into effect Jan. 27 and were released on Feb. 16 in the [Illinois Register](#) (Part 1, Section 1.425, pages 2,991 and 3,013-3,016). The new Section 1.425(g) puts into rule the Task Force's recommendations regarding the use of the Fitnessgram or the Brockport Physical Fitness Testing for students with disabilities whose individualized education program identifies the Fitnessgram as not appropriate. Scores achieved on the testing may not be used as part of a student's grade or to evaluate a teacher.

Schools must begin using the Fitnessgram assessments in the 2016-17 school year and electronically report results from the fitness testing to the State Board (through IWAS) by May 1, 2017, and annually thereafter.

For further assistance, including a document containing commonly asked questions and answers and training being offered, please go to [www.isbe.net/EPE/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/EPE/default.htm).

### March 3 Webinar on Food Insecurity and Child Nutrition Programs in Illinois

ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division, in partnership with the Illinois Commission to End Hunger and Illinois No Kid Hungry, is hosting a webinar on food insecurity and child nutrition programs in Illinois at 10 a.m. March 3.

The webinar will provide Illinois school food authorities (SFAs) an overview of Food Insecurity in Illinois and what resources, including grants, might be available for SFAs to implement a variety of Child Nutrition Programs in your communities. More detailed information about the Illinois Commission to End Hunger is available at [www.illinois.gov/gov/endhunger/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.illinois.gov/gov/endhunger/Pages/default.aspx). More information on Illinois No Kid Hungry is available at [www.riseandshineillinois.org](http://www.riseandshineillinois.org).

- **“SNP – An Overview of Food Insecurity and Child Nutrition Programs in Illinois” webinar**
- **Date:** March 3
- **Time:** 10 a.m.
- **Register:**  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2414476230016284673>

### 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, 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.

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## 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 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](http://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](mailto:lea@isbe.net) by Feb. 23. Time will be allotted for questions during the meetings as well. The meeting dates and registration information are 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](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=0044-0016-65b6361786e043d0b0fdabc9a4b931b9](https://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0044-0016-65b6361786e043d0b0fdabc9a4b931b9)

[k=0044-0016-c8d8466d32ae4cd484d72e795ff6b0be](https://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0044-0016-65b6361786e043d0b0fdabc9a4b931b9)

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

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## Funding and Disbursements

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:scray@isbe.net) or (217) 782-5256.

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## In Brief

### School Recognition

- **Lombard Elementary District 44** recently won a Gold Sustainable Award from the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association for its nature-based playground at William Hammerschmidt Elementary School. WHS Learn+Play Gardens was the only project in Illinois to receive the honor. Read more at [www.sd44.org/pages/Lombard\\_IL/News/WHS\\_Learn\\_x2b\\_Play\\_Gardens\\_Wi](http://www.sd44.org/pages/Lombard_IL/News/WHS_Learn_x2b_Play_Gardens_Wi). Congratulations to the Lombard community!
- **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

- Two Illinois students were named the state's top youth volunteers for 2016 in the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. **Jungin Angie Lee of Naperville** and **Nicolas Ramkumar of Champaign** each will receive a \$1,000 award, an engraved silver medallion, and a trip to Washington, D.C., this spring for the program's national recognition events. More than 29,000 youth from across the country participated in this year's program. Congratulations, Jungin and Nicolas!

### Educator Opportunities

- The 33<sup>rd</sup> annual **National Resource Center for Paraeducators Conference** will take place April 1-3 in Oak Brook. Sponsored by the Illinois Education Association and the National Education Association, the event will include interactive sessions on the Every Student Succeeds Act, literacy and math instruction, effective behavior management, and more. For more details and to register, go to [www.nrcpara.org/conference](http://www.nrcpara.org/conference). If you have questions, contact Jennie Young at [jyoung@nea.org](mailto:jyoung@nea.org), Kathi Griffin at [kathi.griffin@ieanea.org](mailto:kathi.griffin@ieanea.org), or Emily Phillips at [para@nrcpara.org](mailto:para@nrcpara.org).
- **Prevent School Violence Illinois** is holding a two-day workshop on March 3-4 at Hamburger University Conference Center in Oak Brook. The event will allow teams of administrators, teachers, student support staff, and community partners to reflect on their strengths, identify challenges, and build their teams to support positive school transformation. For more information and to register, contact Sarah Schriber at [sarah@psvillinois.org](mailto:sarah@psvillinois.org).
- The **National Principals Leadership Institute** will hold its 19<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Institute July 9-14 in New York City. Participants will look at common attributes of successful leaders, describe the leadership demands of their settings, and compose a Personal Leadership Action Plan. For more details and to register, visit <https://npli.squarespace.com/2016-summer-institute-1/#2016-summer-institute>.

### School Opportunities

- The National Principals Leadership Institute (NPLI), in partnership with TD Ameritrade, is seeking applicants for the **2016 NPLI School Innovation and Change Awards**. Winning schools will receive a \$10,000 grant. The deadline to apply is April 1. For more information, visit <https://npli.squarespace.com/sicaapplication/#logo>.

### Student Opportunities

- The **American Legion Illinois Premier Boys State** program teaches citizenship and gives youth the opportunity to learn about government

“by doing” through a weeklong camp. This year’s session will take place June 11-17 at Eastern Illinois University. To learn more and to register, visit <http://illinoisboysstate.org/>.

### **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>.