



# Weekly Message

March 1, 2016

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

Hello,

The American Institutes for Research has released the *National Benchmarks for State Achievement Standards* study. The study reviewed test results for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, and ACT Aspire exams from 2015 and benchmarked them against NAEP, identifying which tests had the highest and lowest performance standards compared to NAEP.

Key findings from the study include:

- PARCC college-ready standards are comparable in difficulty to the NAEP Basic level for English language arts and comparable to NAEP Proficient in mathematics.
- PARCC college-ready standards are comparable in difficulty to the ACT Aspire college-ready standard for grade 4 reading. However, PARCC standards are significantly higher than ACT Aspire standards for grade 4 mathematics and for grade 8 English language arts and mathematics.
- PARCC college-ready standards are significantly higher than those of Smarter Balanced. Smarter Balanced college-ready standards are comparable in difficulty to NAEP Basic levels.

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Overall, the results show that PARCC has set higher performance expectations than the two other multi-state tests that were evaluated and most of the other state tests. These findings reaffirm the strength of the PARCC assessment as a tool to assure that our children are on the path to college and career readiness. To read more, visit [www.air.org/resource/national-benchmarks-state-achievement-standards](http://www.air.org/resource/national-benchmarks-state-achievement-standards).

I would also like to congratulate the Illinois Principals Association/Horace Mann 2016-17 Principals of the Year. The award winners are:

- **Elementary Principal of the Year** – Aimee Kasper, Kishwaukee Elementary School, Rockford School District 205
- **Middle School/Junior High Principal of the Year** – Charley Cass, Central Junior High School, Frankfort CUSD 168
- **High School Principal of the Year** – Robert Nolting, Victor J. Andrew High School, Consolidated High School District 230

- **Assistant Principal of the Year** – Andrew Johnson, Teutopolis High School, Teutopolis CUSD 50

These outstanding school leaders are having a positive impact on their students and learning communities. They were chosen from a pool of region nominees provided by the 21 regions of the Illinois Principals Association. We are grateful for your strong leadership and commitment to your students and staff.

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
- **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/>)
- **No Kid Hungry Illinois summer grant application deadline** – April 1 (<http://grants.nokidhungry.org/>)
- **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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## State Funding and Forecasting

### Data Available to Start Estimating Fiscal Year 2017 General State Aid

ISBE's State Funding and Forecasting staff has posted preliminary data used to complete the forecasted fiscal year 2017 General State Aid (GSA) claim. Please visit the [GSA website](#) to obtain the following data sets found under the "Reports" heading:

- Final EAV 2013 and Tax Rates
- Preliminary 2014 EAV and Tax Rates
- Preliminary 2014 Limiting Rates
- CPPRT receipts from 2014
- Districts Subject to the Alternate PTELL Adjustment

You are encouraged to use these reports in conjunction with the updated FY 2017 forecasting tool (also available on the [GSA website](#) under the "Tools" heading) to assist with calculating your estimated GSA for FY 2017 budgeting purposes. We ask that you review the data listed on the website and compare it to your records.

Please contact State Funding and Forecasting staff at (217) 782-0249 if you identify any discrepancies.

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## School Health Issues

### Vaccination of Child Care Staff

[Public Act 99-0267](#) amended the Child Care Act to require proof of vaccination against tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, measles, mumps, and rubella for all employees of a child-care facility who care for children aged 6 and under. The Child Care Act creates a child-care license for certain facilities, with licensing issued by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). ISBE reminds schools that operate a child-care facility for children aged 6 and under to determine whether they operate under a license issued by DCFS. Such licensing is required for schools that operate a child-care program enrolling children under age 2 and is optional for schools that enroll only children above age 2 in their child-care center.

If the school rents out or otherwise contracts with a child-care facility to operate a center but does not operate the center or employ the workers, the center is regulated by its own DCFS licensing rules.

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## Nutrition and Wellness Programs

### Summary of New Rules: Physical Fitness Assessment, Data Collection, & Reporting

[Public Act 98-0859](#) created the Stakeholder and Expert Task Force on Physical Education (SETFPE). 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 SETFPE 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 2991 and 3013-3016). This new section puts into rule the task force's recommendations regarding the use of the FitnessGram or the Brockport Physical Fitness Testing protocols 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.

During the 2016-17 school year, schools must:

- Ensure that school personnel administering the assessments participate in training related to the proper administration and scoring of the assessment by reviewing the applicable chapters of the FitnessGram Test Administration Manual and, if applicable, the Brockport Physical Fitness Test Manual. Each district must maintain evidence of an individual's successful completion of the training and make it available to ISBE upon request.
- Establish procedures and protocols to ensure the confidentiality of individual student assessment results consistent with the requirements of the

Illinois School Records Act and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

- Begin administering the following four portions of FitnessGram protocols in grades 3-12 in the second semester (first and second semesters preferred for pre and post results) and annually thereafter:
  - for Aerobic Capacity - the PACER test (recommended) or Mile Run (alternate) or Brockport test (any of the adapted tests for aerobic functioning for students with disabilities) for students in grades 4-12;
  - for Flexibility - the Back-Saver Sit and Reach test (recommended) or Trunk Lift test (alternate) or Brockport test (any of the adapted tests for flexibility or range of motion for students with disabilities);
  - for Muscular Endurance - the Curl-Up test or Brockport test (any of the adapted tests for strength and endurance for students with disabilities); and
  - for Muscular Strength – the Push-Up test or Brockport test (any of the adapted tests for strength and endurance for students with disabilities)
- Collect and report the following data by your district's established date for grades 5, 7, and 10. The district in turn must report results electronically to ISBE through the Student Health Data in IWAS by May 1, 2017, and annually thereafter:
  - number of students tested by grade (5, 7, and 10 only) and gender in each of the four tests above,
  - number of students that achieved a healthy fitness zone by grade (5, 7, and 10 only) and gender in each of the four tests above, and
  - number of students that were identified as needing improvement by grade (5, 7, and 10 only) and gender in each of the four tests above.

For further assistance, including a Q & A document, please go to [www.isbe.net/EPE/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/EPE/default.htm).

### **No Kid Hungry Illinois Summer Grants**

Grants are available from Share Our Strength and the No Kid Hungry Illinois Campaign to help organizations expand access to and participation in USDA-supported summer meals programs. The

application is located at <http://grants.nokidhungry.org/>, using the access code ILSUMMER2016.

Applications are due April 1.

Grant awards of up to \$5,000 are available. Funding may be used for equipment, personnel, transportation, and other non-food program expenses. Grant applications will be evaluated based on:

- Priority Counties served
- Ability to reach high-need populations and/or areas underserved by summer meals programs
- Growth potential for summer meals participation
- Information provided in proposal describes an understanding of the specific needs of the community and a well thought out plan for your summer program
- Funds requested are connected to the needs and plan presented in the proposal

Applicants will be notified of grant status within four to six weeks of the application deadline. Grant payments will be issued after confirmation that applicants have been approved as a Summer Food Service Program/ National School Lunch Program summer meals sponsor by ISBE and receipt of the applicant's signed grant agreement letter.

Organizations with potential for significant expansion and with clearly described plans for achieving their goals will be most likely to receive the maximum amount.

Grant recipients will be required to complete a report on the following:

- Financial report on use of funds
- Participation numbers (similar to information that is already required for sponsors to report for the USDA)
- Narrative report on the successes and challenges of the program over the course of the summer

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### **Special Education Services**

#### **Special Education Rules**

Changes made to the Special Education Regulations, found in 23 Illinois Administrative Code 226, took

effect on Jan. 13 and were published in the Illinois Register on Jan. 29. Please see the revised regulations at [www.isbe.net/rules/archive/pdfs/226ark.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/pdfs/226ark.pdf). An outline of the specific changes may be found at [www.isbe.net/spec-ed/Default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/Default.htm) under “What’s New.”

## Dyslexia

**Illinois Public Act 98-0705** required ISBE to adopt rules that incorporate an international definition of dyslexia into the 23 Illinois Administrative Code 226. The definition was added into the rules, which took effect on Jan. 13 and were published in the Illinois Register on Jan. 29. Please see the revised regulations at [www.isbe.net/rules/archive/pdfs/226ark.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/pdfs/226ark.pdf). A new webpage that provides information specific to dyslexia will soon be added to ISBE’s at [www.isbe.net/spec-ed/Default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/Default.htm).

## Indicator 13

The Indicator 13 Scoring Rubric and Checklist have been updated to align with Harrisburg’s data collection. Additionally, the Secondary Transition Training webinar has been updated and is now also available on the ISBE Secondary Transition website. These ISBE Indicator 13 resources are found at [www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/indicator13.htm](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/indicator13.htm).

## 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 this month. 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. 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 P-20 Council

### Input Sought for Dual Credit Survey

The Illinois P-20 Council Committee on Teacher and Leader Effectiveness is asking educators to complete a survey on the state of dual credit in Illinois. Links to the survey are available at:

Superintendents - [www.surveymonkey.com/r/CWV5QSS](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CWV5QSS)

Principals - [www.surveymonkey.com/r/CF83SWK](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CF83SWK)

High school educators - [www.surveymonkey.com/r/CMSJSK8](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CMSJSK8)

The committee’s mission is to advise the governor on recommendations for strengthening and aligning the preparation, certification, development, and retention of highly effective and diverse teachers and leaders. This year, the committee is conducting research on dual credit in Illinois by:

1. Examining the current state of dual credit in Illinois schools by documenting what is occurring in this arena throughout schools and districts and to identify the needs of districts in the area of dual credit.
2. Studying the credentialing of high school teachers to teach dual credit courses in their respective schools.
3. Learning about and publicizing the dual credit programs at the district, school, higher education, and state levels.
4. Making recommendations about the best practices in dual credit at the district and university levels.

The survey information will help the P-20 Council Committee move forward on supporting Illinois’ high



schools through the dual credit lens. Additionally, the survey data will be used in a dissertation research project on how the perceptions of local Illinois stakeholders impact student access to dual credit and advanced placement courses.

Contact Dr. Erika Hunt at [elhunt@ilstu.edu](mailto:elhunt@ilstu.edu) with questions.

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### **Illinois Student Assistance Commission**

#### **College Illinois! 529 Prepaid Tuition Program Available to Families**



The College Illinois!® 529 Prepaid Tuition Program is committed to helping make college more affordable for Illinois families by offering parents a way to lock in the cost of college by prepaying for their child's future college tuition at

today's plan rates. College Illinois! will cover the tuition and mandatory fees at the college or university in their plan – no matter how high tuition climbs by the time their child is ready to attend. And College Illinois! isn't limited to Illinois public institutions – the value of plan benefits can be applied at private and out-of-state schools.

More than 30,000 students have already gone to colleges nationwide using College Illinois!. A College Illinois! 529 Prepaid Tuition Plan can help make college possible for families across the state, so administrators and educators are encouraged to share information about this important option with families who are beginning or in the midst of the college planning process.

- Consider forwarding via email or share on social media the College Illinois! [explainer video](#), which offers a short overview to introduce parents to the program.
- Schedule a College Illinois! [information session](#) for the parents in your school district.
- Place College Illinois! [brochures](#) in school offices. Brochures can be ordered by calling (847) 831-8013.

For additional information call Sandra Houston, director of College Illinois!, at (312) 814-6306 or email [sandra.houston@isac.illinois.gov](mailto:sandra.houston@isac.illinois.gov).

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### **Midwestern Higher Education Compact**

#### **K-12 Districts and Schools Eligible to Utilize MHEC Contracts**

K-12 districts and schools in Illinois are eligible to utilize Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) contracts, depending on the vendor. Below is a breakdown by category of the vendor contracts available:

Hardware: Dell, HP Enterprise, HP Inc., and Lenovo

Software: VMware/Arrow, Corel, and SAS

Printers and Peripherals: Xerox

Data and Voice Networking: Ciena/Walker

Technology Services: Info-Tech and Parchment

For more information on MHEC, please visit <http://www.mhec.org/>.

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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

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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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## 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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## **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 Illinois Association of School Administrators' **Aspiring Superintendent Summer Academy** is a program for school leaders who are thinking about becoming a superintendent. The five-day program will hone participants' leadership knowledge and skills and give them a view of the modern superintendency. For more information and questions, contact Cherry Middleton at (217) 753-2213 or [cmiddleton@iasaedu.org](mailto:cmiddleton@iasaedu.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 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).

- 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>.