



Weekly Message

March 7, 2017

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

When our students come to school each day, many enter their classrooms weighed down by worries and challenges outside of their control. Our students face a range of barriers -- from economic, familial, and societal constraints to health, social, and emotional obstacles. As community hubs, schools are in an important position to nurture the whole child. All students have unique strengths and needs and require universal and differentiated supports to meet those needs. Whole, healthy school communities integrate the resources our students require, equipping them to succeed in college and career.

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School social workers help build these communities. They collaborate with educators and school staff to address the environmental challenges that affect a student's performance and behavior, coordinate community resources, and work with students and their families to ensure that our students receive the academic, social, and emotional support they need to thrive in school. In honor of National School Social Work Week this week, I want to thank the school social workers across Illinois for fostering positive school environments and facilitating the necessary partnerships between schools, families, and communities that can help our students grow and achieve academically. The [Illinois Association of School Social Workers](#) shares resources to help you celebrate the social workers in your school. Highlight the work of your school social workers on social media with #SSWWeek.

This week is also National #SchoolBreakfast Week. I would like to emphasize how important nutrition is for success in the classroom, especially breakfast to start the day. When our kids eat a healthy breakfast, they have the energy they need to focus in class and engage as active learners. Research shows that kids who eat school breakfast have higher attendance and perform better on standardized tests. ISBE's [Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division](#) administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture's [School Breakfast Program](#), which is part of the National School Lunch Program. Thank you to all of the schools that participate and a special thank you to the school nutrition professionals across the state who help make breakfast and other meals and snacks available to students. This year's theme, "[Take the School Breakfast Challenge](#)," encourages families, students, and school officials to start their morning with a healthy breakfast.

This Thursday marks [International School Meals Day](#), which highlights the importance of school meal programs worldwide and aims to foster awareness around healthy eating. Food serves as a mechanism through which we can learn about and connect with each other – and this year’s theme, “Food, Culture, and Heritage,” promotes excitement around learning and connecting. National School Breakfast Week and International School Meals Day fall during [National Nutrition Month](#), created by the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#). For suggestions for how to get involved, read these [36 Ideas](#).

Remember to let us know how you are celebrating! Send photos to cnp@isbe.net to be featured in next month’s issue of The Outlook, our monthly newsletter for school nutrition and wellness programs. Tag us in your posts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and use the hashtags #NSBW17, #ISMD2017, and #NationalNutritionMonth. Knowledge about nutrition and healthy habits will serve our students well beyond their K-12 education.

Have a great week!

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 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
- **Illinois State Board of Education Meeting** – March 15
- **Deadline to submit Charter School Program - QSO RFP** – March 20
- **Nonpublic/Public School ESSA Conference** – April 5 (www.isbe.net/nonpublicprograms)
- **Illinois State Board of Education Meeting** – April 13
- **Every Kid Healthy Week** – April 24-28
- **Part 25 (Educator Licensure)** – Public comment ends April 24
- **Deadline to submit Early Childhood Education Division RFP Evaluators survey** – May 1
- **Illinois State Board of Education Meeting** – May 24
- **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.)

School Safety

Registration Underway for School Safety Conference Coming Up in Mount Prospect

A free School Safety Conference is set for 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 18 in Mount Prospect. The

conference is presented by the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Oak Park and River Forest High School, Facility Engineering Associates P.C., Oak Park Police, East Aurora School District, Proviso Area for Exceptional Children, and ILSROA.

District administrators, school administrators, police and fire department officials, transportation directors, those in charge of safety, and emergency managers are encouraged to attend the gathering of experts in the field of school safety and crisis prevention.

The conference features vendors and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. CPDU/CEU paperwork will be provided on site.

For more information, including a list of guest speakers and topics, visit <http://app.gbriskcontrol.com/retasecurityregistration/>. The deadline to register is April 8.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

Breakfast Briefing at the State Capitol

Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti, the Illinois Commission to End Hunger, No Kid Hungry, the Illinois State Board of Education, and partners from around the state are holding a *Breakfast Briefing* to learn how we can all work together in the fight to end child hunger in Illinois. The event will be held on Thursday, March 9, from 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. at the Illinois State Capitol Building Rotunda in Springfield. To register, click [here](#).

Apply for the Fuel Up to Play 60 School Nutrition Equipment Grants

The Midwest Dairy Council will offer the Fuel Up to Play 60 School Nutrition Equipment Grants again this year. The grant application is available at FuelUpToPlay60.com.

The purpose of the grant is to provide funding to School Nutrition Departments to purchase equipment for up to three schools per district that will enhance the long-term implementation of their school meal programs with a preference to increasing school breakfast participation by offering it outside the cafeteria.

Equipment may include large and small items such as breakfast in the classroom equipment, utility carts, coolers, etc. The deadline to apply is April 28. Contact

Sandra Brown at sbrown@midwestdairy.com for more information and questions.

EPA Offers Webinar on Keeping School Kitchens and Cafeterias Free of Pests

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will present “Feed the Kids, Not the Pests: Effective Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Cafeterias and Kitchens” on Tuesday, March 14. The free webinar is set for 1-2:30 p.m.

This webinar will prepare attendees to:

- Develop strategies for specifically assessing school cafeterias and kitchens for pests.
- Efficiently integrate food and service staff assistance with school IPM plan implementation in cafeterias and kitchens.
- Understand the importance of food safety and pesticide exposure in these pest vulnerable areas.
- Implement tactics to eliminate pests in these areas; as well as, address other facility maintenance issues, such as mold and moisture control.

Space is limited. [Click here for more information and to register](#).

Rules and Waivers

Invitation to Comment of Rules

One set 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 <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Rules.aspx>. Select “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net. The public comment period ends April 24. The rulemaking is Part 25 (Educator Licensure).

Early Childhood

Reminder – Notice of Intent to Submit FY 2018 Request for Proposal

This Notice of Intent to Submit Proposal must be submitted by all entities that intend to apply for fiscal year 2018 Early Childhood Block Grant funds. **Please note**, there are three different links -- one for each

Request for Proposal (RFP). Questions regarding the Intent to Submit survey can be emailed to earlychi@isbe.net.

[FY 2018 Birth to 3 Years Notice of Intent to Submit Proposal Prevention Initiative](#)

[FY 2018 Notice of Intent to Submit Proposal - Preschool for All 3 to 5 Years](#)

[FY 2018 Notice of Intent to Submit Proposal - Preschool for All Expansion 3 to 5 Years](#)

Now Available – Call for RFP Evaluators

ISBE's Early Childhood Education Division has issued a call for evaluators for the FY 2018 RFP: Prevention Initiative (PI) Birth to Age 3, Preschool for All (PFA) Ages 3-5, Preschool for All Expansion Model (PFAE) State. To apply, please complete the [survey](#) no later than May 1. In submitting this application, you are volunteering time and expertise to complete the evaluation of approximately 10 to 20 proposals. Questions may be forwarded to the Early Childhood Education Division at earlychi@isbe.net.

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 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.

Additional Charter School Resources

The National Charter School Resource Center (NCSRC) released a suite of materials on intentionally diverse charter schools. New resources include a [toolkit for charter school leaders](#) and a [video case study](#) of Valor Collegiate Academies. The NCSRC's resources have also been featured as blogs on [Education Post](#) and [The 74](#). These resources demonstrate how charter school leaders recruit, enroll, serve, and maintain a diverse student body.

Assessments and Accountability

College Board Webinar: Getting Ready for the ISBE-Provided SAT School Day

College Board is holding a webinar on March 14 to assist districts in preparing for the SAT testing dates in April. The webinar will include input from Illinois districts that have experienced the first administration of the SAT, as well as tips from College Board. Two sessions will be held on March 14.

Registration:
[March 14, 9 – 10:30 a.m.](#)
[March 14, 2:30 – 4 p.m.](#)

For questions, please contact Sharon Cowley at scowley@collegeboard.org.

College and Career Readiness

Illinois Science and Social Science Workshop for Elementary Educators

A workshop developed by ISBE content area specialists is being offered to help empower teachers

and educational leaders to bring out the change necessary to implement the Illinois Learning Standards for science and social science in elementary classrooms.

Workshop objectives include engaging in elementary-aligned content that incorporates inquiry to emphasize the full intent of the standards, exploring sample interdisciplinary units and lessons into unit planning, examining implementation resources for elementary-level standards, encompassing content within the literacy block while fully meeting standards, and empowering educators to be advocates for change.

Dates and Locations:

All workshops are from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

- March 30 - [East Peoria](#)
- March 31 - [Rockford](#)
- April 4 - [Marion](#)

For more information, visit

www.ilclassroomsinaction.org/upcoming-professional-development.html.

In Brief

Student Recognition

- **Congratulations to Aidan Busch** of Palatine High School, who recently won the statewide VFW Voice of Democracy essay contest! Great job, Aidan!
- **Congrats to William Bauman and Kayli Roe** for being named Illinois' top youth volunteers in the 22nd annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program! William is a junior at Grayslake North High School and Kayli is a seventh-grader at Immanuel Lutheran School in Palatine. For more information, visit <https://spirit.prudential.com/>. Great job, William and Kayli!

Educator Recognition

- **Congratulations to Elizabeth Chambers**, health occupations program coordinator and instructor at Freeport School District 145, for winning the IACTE New Teacher Award!

District Recognition

- **Congratulations to the Preschool for All Programs** that were honored with the [Award of Excellence](#) for Inclusion! Programs from the following districts were honored: CCSD 146, Tinley Park, Oak Forest, and Orland Park (Kruse Education Center, Fierke Education Center, Memorial School); District 93, Bloomingdale (Early Childhood Center); ESD 159, Matteson (Woodgate Elementary School); Carbondale District 95 (Parrish School); District 303, St. Charles (Ferson Creek Elementary School, Norton Creek Elementary School, Fox Ridge Elementary School).
- Congratulations to [Haines Elementary School](#) for being named the 2017 Illinois National Title I Distinguished School. Keep up the great work!

Student Opportunities

- To celebrate National School Breakfast Week, AdVenture Capital (AdCap) is holding the **2017 Build a Better Breakfast Challenge** for middle and high school students to pitch their ideas to help make breakfast at their schools even better. Students can submit their school breakfast idea to [AdCap](#) by March 22 for a chance to win a \$1,000 grant and bring their idea to life!

Educator Opportunities

- **The 2017 Illinois Network of Charter Schools Job Fair** is Saturday, March 18, in Chicago. For more information, please visit <https://www.incschoools.org/event/teacher-job-fair/>.

District Opportunities

- **March is National Nutrition Month**, which is promoted by the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#). Find out how schools and others can get involved with [“36 Ideas to Get Involved in National Nutrition Month.”](#)

Professional Development

- **Online Impact**, a program offered by the Center for Education Initiative at Illinois State University and supported by the Illinois State Board of

Education, is offering educators from Illinois online workshops focused on classroom practice. Workshops can be completed at your own pace. They have been designed by Illinois educators with years of experience in the subject area of the workshop. For more information, visit <http://onlineimpact.isbe.net/>.

ISBE Employment Opportunities

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