



Weekly Message

March 14, 2017

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

It's Illinois Arts Education Week. Thank you to all of the arts educators in Illinois for your commitment to fostering creativity and nurturing the development of the whole child. The arts promote self-reflection, critical thinking, and cross-cultural understanding.

In celebration of the value of dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts education, at tomorrow's State Board of Education meeting, the Board will honor this year's Arts Education Week poster contest winner. This



year's theme was "Art Has No Boundaries!" Lia Lauck of Oswego High School in

Community Unit School District 308 designed the winning poster. Lia's mixed media piece explores the relationship between visual art and literary arts. Congratulations, Lia! Anna Schultz of The Willows Academy in Des Plaines was awarded second place, and third place went to Heidi Fischer of Johnsbury High School in Johnsbury School District 12. Learn more about the contest and see all of the winning posters [here](#).

March is also [Music in Our Schools Month](#), a celebration led by the National Association for Music Education, in addition to Illinois Art Education Association's Youth Art Month. Artwork from the 2017 Youth Art Month contest, themed "United through Art", is posted [online](#).

I looking forward to hearing from the Student Advisory Council (SAC) at tomorrow's Board meeting as well. This year's council has focused on increasing mental health awareness between school counselors/social workers, teachers, administrators, and students. SAC members have spoken with representatives from other state education departments and from school districts across the state to gather information on the topic of adolescent mental health. I have been impressed by the quality of research and thoughtful presentations of past SAC members and I am excited to see what recommendations these students have. Students bring valuable insight to our discussions – and as we are working to build safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments for all students, it is important that we hear their perspectives.

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The testing window for the Illinois Science Assessment opened on March 1, and the first day of testing for PARCC was March 6. In the past two weeks, over 15,000 Science tests and 28,580 PARCC tests have been completed. I want to take a moment to recognize all the test coordinators, technology coordinators, teachers, and administrators whose hard work makes this possible.

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>.

- **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
- **Deadline to submit TAOEP RFP** – May 4
- **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.)

Special Education Services

Information on the Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program RFP

A bidders' webinar for the Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP) Request for Proposal (RFP) is scheduled from 1 to 3 p.m. on March, 20. To register for the webinar, go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2227912205218114819>.

Eligible applicants for the 2018 TAOEP RFP will receive a notice through IWAS when the application is available in their accounts. Applications should be available no later than March 14. The deadline for submitting the TAOEP RFP is noon on May 4.

For additional information, contact Sally Veach in ISBE's Special Education Services Division at (217) 782-5589, or via email at sveach@isbe.net.

Title Grants Administration

Illinois Association of Title I Directors Spring Conference

The Illinois Association of Title I Directors will be hosting its annual spring conference at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. **April 4**. Fiscal and assessment updates will be provided. The remainder of the meeting will focus on the Every Student Succeeds Act. To see a copy of the draft agenda, visit www.iatd.net. For additional location information and to register, visit

<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/?eventid=1952401>.

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.

Assessments and Accountability

Assessment Support

The testing windows for both the Illinois Science Assessment and PARCC are now open, and the DLM and SAT testing dates are approaching. Due to this, call volume at ISBE is very high right now. We know you need support, and our staff is working diligently to provide that assistance as quickly as possible. If you call us and experience a busy signal, please hang up and try again, or email your question to assessment@isbe.net.

To help guide you to the most helpful source, please see below:

PARCC

Issues with test administration or Pearson Access^{Next}.

- Call 1-888-493-9888
- Email parcc@support.pearson.com
- Log in to Pearson Access^{Next} for Live Chat Support

To request an Undo Test Submit:

- Email assessment@isbe.net
- Call 1-866-317-6034

SAT

- Call 1-844-688-9995
- Email ilsat@collegeboard.org

ISA

- Dan Brown, General questions, dabrown@isbe.net
- Wes Bruce, IT questions, wesbruce3@gmail.com
- Butch Wilson, IT questions (Chromebooks app lead), bwilson@lrc6.org
- Jamey Baiter, User questions, jbaiter@isbe.net
- David Hope, Rostering questions, dhope@isbe.net
- Call 1-866-317-6034

DLM-AA

- Laura Quimby, General questions, lquimby@isbe.net

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

Breakfast Briefing Stresses the Importance of Summer Meals and Breakfast in Schools



ISBE Nutrition and Wellness Program Division staff joined Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti on Thursday, March 9, for a Breakfast Briefing at the Illinois State

Capitol Building to speak about the importance of Child Nutrition Programs. The Illinois Commission to End Hunger, IL No Kid Hungry, and other partners from around the state were also on hand to promote the fight to end childhood hunger.

Amy Bianco, coordinator of [ISBE's Summer Food Service Program](#) (SFSP), spoke to lawmakers and others in attendance about the need for additional SFSP feeding sites across the state in order to provide healthy meals to children when school is not in session. Many children rely on free and reduced-priced meals during the school year but do not have access to healthy meals when school is out for the summer. SFSP steps in to help fight hunger during the summer months.

ISBE administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture funded program. For more information, about how to become a Summer Food Service Program site, call the Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division at (800) 545-7892.

Roxanne Ramage, who works with [ISBE's School Nutrition Programs](#), also provided an update on Breakfast After the Bell. [Public Act 099-0850](#) requires public schools in which at least 70 percent of the students eligible for free or reduced price meals in October of the preceding year to operate a Breakfast After the Bell program.

Rise & Shine Offers Resources and Grants for Breakfast After the Bell

The new [Breakfast After the Bell law](#) goes into effect in the 2017-18 school year. Under the law, breakfast is to be provided after the instructional day has officially begun for every public school in which at least 70 percent of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

Be ready for the 2017-18 school year by implementing a Breakfast After the Bell program at your school. If you are looking for assistance with how to go about implementation, Rise & Shine Illinois can assist. Rise and Shine Illinois has successfully helped schools throughout the state implement successful Breakfast After the Bell programs.

Please take a look at the 2017 school breakfast grant and resources below. Contact Rise & Shine Illinois at schoolbreakfast@gcfd.org and visit <http://www.riseandshineillinois.org> for more information. On the Rise & Shine Illinois homepage, scroll down to the bottom of the page to be "In the Know" on the Breakfast After the Bell Program by signing up to receive the Rise & Shine IL Newsletter.

[School Breakfast Grants](#) will support schools implementing or preparing to implement a Breakfast After the Bell delivery model (Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab 'N' Go, or Second Chance Breakfast) with the purchase of approved equipment, supplies, or materials in an effort to increase student participation in school breakfast. Maximum request amount is \$5,000. The deadline to apply is March 22.

March 12-18 is National CACFP Week

National CACFP Week was created to increase awareness about the USDA's [Child and Adult Care Food Program](#). ISBE administers CACFP in Illinois. Visit <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Child-Adult-Care-Food-Program.aspx> for more information and resources.

CACFP works to combat hunger and provide healthy food options to children in child care centers, home day cares, before and after school programs, summer programs, emergency shelters, and adults in adult day cares. (The Illinois Department on Aging administers the [adult portion of CACFP](#).)

The CACFP provides healthy meals and snacks to more than 3 million children and 200,000 adults each day. Read [Farm to Preschool: Local Food and Learning in Early Child Care and Education Settings](#) to learn about how local foods can be utilized in the CACFP.

Mumps Outbreak Reminds Parents to Check Children's Immunization Records

The Illinois Department of Public Health and Lake County Health Department have confirmed an outbreak of mumps in some Lake County schools.

When an outbreak of mumps is declared, susceptible contacts may be excluded from school until the outbreak is over. "Susceptible contacts" may include students who were not immunized against mumps,

whether the reason for not obtaining the vaccine is medical or religious.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) describes mumps as a contagious disease caused by a virus. It typically starts with a few days of fever, headache, muscle aches, tiredness, and loss of appetite, followed by swollen salivary glands.

The Lake County cases come as the U.S. is in the midst of one of the largest mumps surges in decades, with schools and college campuses in many states contending with outbreaks.

The best way to protect children from mumps is with the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine. Parents are advised to check their children's vaccination records to assure they have received at least two doses of the MMR.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Gets Underway in Selected High Schools

The 2017 administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is underway in selected Illinois high schools. The survey, coordinated by ISBE with direction from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is given to a small number of high school students in schools selected by random sample to represent the Illinois high school population.

ISBE supports the YRBS program and thanks the school officials who have already agreed to allow trained surveyors to give the surveys to the student sample. Surveys are underway this month at those schools. No student is required to take the survey if he or she objects.

To learn more about the YRBS, view the ISBE school health issues website, <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Health-Issues.aspx>, or go to the CDC website, <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/index.htm>

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.

Educator Effectiveness

National Board Certification Opportunity for Administrator Leaders

There are currently 47 National Board Professional Development Schools in Illinois led by administrator leaders. The National Board Resource Center (NBRC) is expanding this program to include an additional 25 schools/districts to take part in this opportunity during the 2017-2018 school year.

Members of the National Board Professional Development Schools will spend a year or more fostering personal and professional growth as they build collegial relationships. This program is school based and includes several research-based instructional strategies which focus on implementing effective teaching approaches that nurture critical thinking. Participants support each other in completing the National Board components, collaborate on adapting curriculum to the Illinois Learning Standards, and articulate teaching practices aligned with the Danielson Framework for Teaching while relating these topics to the school's goals. Teachers expand leadership skills which are critical to serving the needs of students, schools and the teaching profession. The overall focus of the National Board Professional Development School program is to impact teaching and learning.

Important Dates:

March 27 —Application submission

April 3 – The NBRC will notify the schools/districts selected as one of the twenty-five cohorts to participate in the National Board Professional Development Schools program.

For questions or more information, contact NBRC Director Debra Kasperski at (309) 438-1833 or dkasper@ilstu.edu.

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.

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.

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.incschools.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>.