



Weekly Message

March 21, 2017

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

Last week, I had the privilege of sitting on a panel at Advance Illinois' Legislator Forum next to 7th grade student Cynthia Taylor-Cutler from East St. Louis District 189. Cynthia shared her story and conveyed how her amazing teachers have helped shape her into the young leader she is today. She was confident and wise beyond her years as she answered questions about education in front of a room full of lawmakers, educators, and educational advocates. Thank you, Cynthia, for reminding us that feedback and insight from all of our stakeholders—including students—must inform our work.

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Women's History Month provides us with an opportunity to focus on the stories of women and girls like Cynthia. Women have overcome adversity, challenged naysayers, and contributed to our communities in extraordinary ways. Too often, though, textbooks overlook the accomplishments of women and literature fails to feature women and girls as protagonists. March encourages us to think critically about curricula to ensure that all students can recognize themselves in what they read and learn. When our students do not see themselves in history lessons, it makes it harder for them to believe that their voices are important and that they, too, can make history. When our students do not see their peers reflected in the books they read, it is also more difficult for them to see their peers as equals and as leaders. If you are looking for classroom resources for Women's History Month, you may want to start by visiting WomensHistoryMonth.gov. [Reading Rockets](#) shares book lists, [ReadWriteThink](#) and [Scholastic](#) suggest classroom activities, and [PBS Learning Media](#) offers videos and other materials on the Women's Movement specifically.

I am excited to see schools across the state using this month as an opportunity to highlight achievements of women and to reflect on how they can do more to empower the girls in their schools. In Aurora, a group of students at Metea Valley High School were invited to a [Women's History Workshop](#) to connect with and learn from women in diverse professions. Tell us how your school has celebrated Women's History Month! Tweet at [@ISBEnews](#), tag [Illinois State Board of Education](#) on Facebook, or email us at Social_Media@isbe.net.

Cynthia's story similarly emphasizes how important it is that our schools nurture, challenge, and inspire our middle level students. The values, habits, and skills our 10 to 15 year-olds develop will influence their paths to college and career. Strong relationships with caring adults help our students as they

navigate the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual changes associated with adolescence. Middle Level Education Month, also in March, gives us the chance to recognize those who educate our students during this critical time. Thank you to all of our middle level teachers and administrators for fostering the safe and supportive systems these students need to thrive. For ideas for how to celebrate Middle Level Education Month in your school and community, check out [these resources](#) from the Association for Middle Level Education.

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>.

- **National Youth Violence Prevention Week** – April 3-7
- **Illinois Association of Title I Directors Spring Conference** – April 4
- **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.)

Grant Accountability Transparency Act

GATA Grantee Registration Portal Open

The grantee prequalification registration portal is now active for fiscal year 2018, and may be accessed directly on the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) website at www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/default.aspx. All grantees must complete the registration process and be qualified to do business with the state of Illinois.

To be qualified to **apply** for a fiscal year 2018 grant award, an entity must complete the following three steps:

1. Authentication (New for fiscal year 2018) and Registration

The Grantee Portal utilizes the Illinois.gov Authentication Portal. A personal or business email address is required to establish an account. Authentication verifies the relationship between an individual and the organization they represent. Authentication is performed once for each individual associated with a registration. If you don't have an Illinois.gov account, click the "Create a new account" link below the "Sign in" button. For help with the Illinois.gov Authentication Portal please visit www.illinois.gov/sites/accounts/Pages/default.aspx.

Once your Illinois.gov account is created, you must return to the Grantee Portal log-in screen and enter

your user name and password to continue. The system will then ask for your organization's DUNS number. If the DUNS number for your organization is on record with GATA from the previous year, the system will associate you with your organization. The process may require the approval of the primary GATA system registrant for your organization.

If the DUNS number that you enter is not found in the GATA system, the system will invite you to create a new grantee account for the entity related to that DUNS number. Please confirm that you entered the correct DUNS number before creating a new account. Creation of a new grantee account is accomplished by providing your organization's:

- DUNS number, (click [HERE](#) to view instructions on obtaining a DUNS number);
- FEIN;
- Organization type;
- Secretary of State ID (NOTE: the following types of organizations have been deemed EXEMPT from this requirement: school districts, colleges, universities, regional offices of education, special education joint agreements and education for employment consortiums);
- Organization name
- Address.

2. Grantee Pre-qualification

All entities must be qualified to do business with the State of Illinois. To be qualified for a grant award, an entity must:

- Be registered in the GATA Grantee Portal system as described above;
- Have a valid DUNS number, (click [HERE](#) to view instructions on obtaining a DUNS number);
- Have a current SAM.gov account, (click [HERE](#) to view instructions on obtaining a SAM Cage Code);
- Not be on the Federal Excluded Parties List, (click [HERE](#) to verify utilizing the Quick Search);
- Be in Good Standing with the Illinois Secretary of State, as applicable) (click [HERE](#) to verify). (NOTE: the following types of organizations have been deemed EXEMPT

from this requirement: school districts, colleges, universities, regional offices of education, special education joint agreements and education for employment consortiums.;

- Not be on the Illinois Stop Payment list;
- Not be on the Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services Provider Sanctions list.

3. Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment (ICQ)

Entities must complete a fiscal year 2018 Internal Controls Questionnaire (ICQ) as the Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment. The ICQ is completed once, annually for each fiscal year. All state agencies will utilize the results of the ICQ. The entity can access the ICQ from the grantee portal. The portal provides access to prior year ICQ responses for those entities that received grants in FY 2017 and the FY 2018 ICQ template that must be completed prior to making application for an FY 2018 grant. The ICQ should be completed by someone with financial or accounting experience.

The status of compliance with each of the requirements described above is displayed in the Grantee Portal for each registered entity.

Please direct any questions you might have related to the GATA registration and pre-qualification process to GATA@isbe.net or (217) 782-5630.

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

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.

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>

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.

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.

In Brief

Upcoming Events

- Help spread the word about **National Youth Violence Prevention Week** (April 3-7) with a social media "Thunderclap" and find other valuable resources to help stop youth violence: <https://www.thunderclap.it/projects/54203-help-prevent-youth-violence?locale=en>.

Student Recognition

- **Congratulations to Aidan Busch** of Palatine High School, who recently won the statewide VFW Voice of Democracy essay contest! Great job, Aidan!

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).

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

- ROE West 40 ISC #2 is hosting the **Midwest Summit for 21st Century Learning** from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. on May 1 in Oak Brook. To register, please visit www.eventbrite.com/e/midwest-summit-for-21st-century-learning-tickets-30811910253.

District Opportunities

- Don't miss the opportunity to attend the **FIRST 2017: The Institute(s) for Better Learning** coming to West Aurora High School in Aurora June 14-16. There are several keynote and breakout presenters including Todd Whitaker, Myron Dueck, and Thomas Guskey. This institute has been offered in Wisconsin the past two summers with incredible reviews. Space is limited, so please do not delay in registering. Details and Registration can be found at www.firsteducation-us.com/first-2017-aurora-il.html.
- **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

- **Northwestern Center for Talent Development** is offering a 4-week mini course on Online Learning and Gifted Students: Best Practices and Promising Possibilities. Professional growth hours available. For more information, click [here](#). Registration ends March 29.

- **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>.