



Weekly Message

March 28, 2017

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

ISBE staff and I were very busy last week in Washington, D.C. We attended the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Legislative Conference. CCSSO is nonpartisan and brings together the leaders of state departments of elementary and secondary education nationwide to collaborate on effective strategies to meet all students’ needs. I currently serve on the Board of Directors of CCSSO and greatly value the opportunities to share ideas and learn from other education leaders who are committed to ensuring that all students are prepared for college, careers, and life.

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I had the privilege of presenting some of the highlights from our ESSA State Plan, including our proposed new framework for measuring school quality and new statewide system of support. As you know, the State Board approved our ESSA State Plan two weeks ago. The Governor also approved and signed the plan. We are now finalizing it for submission to the U.S. Department of Education by April 3.

Other states are excited and inspired by our work – both the content of the plan and the robust collaboration that contributed to the plan. By engaging in dialogue, strengthening relationships, and activating all public, private, and philanthropic resources available, we are working to interrupt the practices that have prevented all of our students from thriving in school. Your feedback was essential to the development of our plan and will continue to be important as we refine it and move into implementation.

In D.C., ISBE staff and I also met with Illinois Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth and hosted a congressional briefing for Illinois delegation staff. We discussed the impact of President Donald Trump’s proposed federal budget on Illinois communities. Potential budget cuts, including cuts to Title II, Title IV, and Impact Aid, would make it more difficult for many Illinois districts to provide educators with the support they need, to promote the development of the whole child, and to offer safe and healthy learning environments for all students. But a proposed budget is not a final budget; I believe it is important to share stories from across the state to illustrate the impact these cuts would have. I will be inviting you to tell us how these cuts would affect your communities. In the coming weeks, I will follow up with more information about where you can send your stories and the specific material that we would like to highlight.

I always enjoy talking about the great work of Illinois students and educators. Illinois mirrors the diversity of the country, so the collaboration and innovation in our schools and communities can serve as models for other states. Thank you for all you are doing to demonstrate that every child can learn in our public schools. I am hopeful that our work in Illinois can help change the national conversation.

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>.

- **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)
- **Annual Pupil Transportation Claim Completion – Live Webinar** – April 12
- **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.)

Early Childhood Education

Early Childhood Block Grant Revised Plan

A revised plan for the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) funding for fiscal year 2018 is being put in place to allow predictability and stability for currently funded grantees while also allowing for program expansion opportunities. Due to delays in the release of the Requests for Proposals, the full re-competition of the ECBG is being delayed until FY 2019, pending final Board approval. Currently funded Preschool for All (PFA), Preschool for All Expansion (PFAE), and Prevention Initiative (PI) grantees will receive continuation funding for FY 2018 and will complete continuation applications. For FY 2018, there will be two RFPs -- one for PFAE and one for PI -- released in May 2017 that will be open to new applicants and

continuing programs. Awards for these two RFPs will be based on additional funding being appropriated to the ECBG.

For the full re-competition for FY 2019, there will be three RFPs: 1) Preschool for All, 2) Preschool for All Expansion, and 3) Prevention Initiative. The anticipated release date for these RFPs is fall/winter 2017.

Information will continue to be posted on the Early Childhood RFP webpage at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/RFPs.aspx>.

KIDStech Clarification

ISBE staff has been made aware there was incomplete information relayed during KIDS Implementation Training regarding KIDStech and its reporting

capabilities. This message should help clarify any confusion.

The confusion has been that there will not be reports for the 14 measures. In fact, KIDStech is being updated so that teachers will be able to choose to fill in only the 14 required measures. Teachers and administrators will be able to download child records with ratings for only the 14 measures. Reports will be available for the 14 measures.

To generate aggregated reports at the Domain level, all of the measures for that Domain must be rated. It is not required to complete all measures in a Domain if you only want reports for the 14 measures. We are working with the trainers to ensure this information is more clearly conveyed in future trainings.

If you have further questions, please contact kids@isbe.net. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

School Health Issues

Registration Now Open for Asthma Management Training Webinar

Join the Respiratory Health Association, Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Illinois State Board of Education for a live webinar, Asthma Management for School Staff, from 3-4 p.m. on April 6.

P.A. 99-0843 requires ISBE to develop a model emergency response protocol and requires school districts to implement an emergency protocol by Jan. 1, 2017. It also requires school staff who work with pupils to complete in-person or online training every two years. The online training will provide districts an opportunity to receive the required training and ensure compliance with P.A. 99-0843. The training is intended for all school staff, including administrators, school nurses, classroom teachers, case managers, counselors, health clerks, physical education teachers, health teachers, office clerks, etc.

To register, please visit <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/6349674534337074433>.

College and Career Readiness

Seeking FY 2018 21st CCLC Program Grant Readers

The Illinois State Board of Education College and Career Readiness Division is seeking additional grant readers for the FY 2018 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) Program grant competition. Preferred grant readers must have after-school experience and knowledge in after-school programming and/or community-based programming that serves school-aged students, grantsmanship experience, previous grant reading experience, 21st CCLC experience and knowledge, program management, and experience with schools and districts.

Readers will need to be available during the month of June 2017 to read the Request for Proposals (RFP) (final date to be announced). Readers will be required to participate in a training that will be delivered via a webinar during the latter part of the month of May 2017. (Final date to be announced.) Readers will read and score their assigned applications, which will be sent to the readers through a web-based system. Access to a computer with internet capability will be necessary. An honorarium will be provided. Once selected, readers will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement, a memorandum of understanding, and complete a conflict of interest questionnaire.

To be considered for this opportunity, please send a letter of interest and resume or curriculum vitae by April 15 to Kenya Davis, Principal Consultant, Illinois State Board of Education, College and Career Readiness Division, 100 North First Street, Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001 or via email at 21stcclc@isbe.net. Please contact Kenya Davis with questions at (217) 524-4832.

Funding and Disbursements

2015-16 Driver Education Cost Report

Per Public Act 97-1025, effective Jan. 1, 2013, the State Board of Education is required to provide an annual report of the per capita Driver Education cost. The 2015-16 report has been compiled and is at <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/driver-ed-cost-rpt-15->

[16.pdf](#). The report utilizes expenditure and revenue data submitted by school districts via their audited Annual Financial Report ending June 30 as well as the number of students provided Driver Education in the same year. District Annual Financial Reports for FY 2016 are at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/School-Finance-Historical-Reports.aspx>.

Questions can be directed to Lisa Willhoit in the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at (217) 782-5256 or lwillhoi@isbe.net.

Annual Pupil Transportation Claim Completion Webinar – April 12

A live webinar will be conducted by ISBE staff from 9 – 11 a.m. on Wednesday, April 12, that will provide in-depth instruction on entering each data element in the annual Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim using available online resources and instructions. In addition, auditors from the Federal and State Monitoring Division will be available to review completion of the depreciation schedule and answer questions. For those not able to attend, the webinar will be recorded and made available, along with copies of the presentation and answers to questions submitted by participants.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

To register, please visit <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6498122897704067585>.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

Action for Healthy Kids Offers Game On and School Breakfast Grants

There is still time to apply for **School Breakfast Grants** and **Game On Grants** from Action for Healthy Kids. The deadline is April 7.

Up to 500 schools will receive grant awards ranging from \$500 to \$3,000 to support increased breakfast participation. Eligible schools may apply to pilot or expand their School Breakfast Programs.

Action for Healthy Kids will award approximately 600 schools with Game On grants for the 2017-18 school

year. These grants provide funding for physical activity and nutrition initiatives that support schools in becoming nationally recognized as health-promoting.

Learn more at <http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/tools-for-schools/apply-for-grants>.

Action for Healthy Kids is also promoting the fifth annual **Every Kid Healthy Week**, which is April 24-28. Get inspired by success stories, including Jungman Elementary School in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago. Read more and find out how you can join in on the special week at <http://www.everykidhealthyweek.org/>

Educator Effectiveness

L.I.N.K. Newsletter

Check out the most recent issue of [ISBE L.I.N.K.](#) This newsletter serves Regional Offices of Education (ROEs), administrators, and educators with pertinent information related to educator licensure in Illinois. We encourage you to share this newsletter with your staff. If there are any items you would like to hear more about or topics you would like to see included, please forward your suggestions to Amy Cosgriff at acosgrif@isbe.net.

National Board Certification Candidate Fee Subsidy Now Available

The Illinois State Board of Education is pleased to announce the opening of the 2017 spring window for the Illinois \$1,900 NBPTS Candidate Fee Subsidy. The National Board Resource Center at Illinois State University will process applications for eligible Illinois teachers and counselors. National Board Certification offers a way for accomplished teachers to be assessed and recognized and a way for parents to know their child's teacher has met high and rigorous standards.

For more information, please visit <http://nbc.illinoisstate.edu/>.

Grant Accountability Transparency Act

GATA Grantee Registration Portal Open

The grantee prequalification registration portal is now active for FY 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 an FY 2018 grant award, an entity must complete the following three steps:

1. Authentication (new for FY 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, ROEs, 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, ROEs, special education joint agreements, and education for employment consortiums);
- Not be on the Illinois Stop Payment list;
- Not be on the Department of Healthcare and Family Services Provider Sanctions list.

3. Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment (ICQ)

Entities must complete an FY 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. 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.

Assessments and Accountability

Assessment Support

The testing windows for both the Illinois Science Assessment and Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) exam are now open, and the Dynamic Learning Maps (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

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 at <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!

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).

Educator Opportunities

- Illinois Area 5 ROEs are hosting the **2017 Directions Midwest Education Conference** June 13-14 in Collinsville. To register, please visit www.directionsconference.com/.
- 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.”](#)

ISBE Employment Opportunities

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