



Weekly Message

March 29, 2016

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

Since the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) took effect in December, our agency staff has been carefully reviewing the nuances of the law and guidance from the U.S. Department of Education to prepare for its full implementation during the 2017-18 school year. ESSA reauthorizes the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act. It also builds on key areas of progress in recent years and Illinois' ongoing efforts to improve educational opportunities for all students.

Illinois will develop its own state plan to fulfill the law's requirements, and implementation will be phased over the next two school years. Due to the law's complexity, we will be reaching out to education and policy leaders and other stakeholders throughout this process. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is working with the Regional Offices of Education to host a listening tour across the state this spring to give you and your colleagues an opportunity to provide feedback.

A series of eight meetings will take place in April to give an overview of the latest information and allow attendees the opportunity to share their ideas on how implementation should unfold. The meetings will address high-level questions, such as:

- What do we value and how would that be translated into a state plan to improve overall student achievement?
- How should student growth factor into the accountability system?
- What do you want to see in a state plan to improve coordinated services to schools and districts?
- What do you want to see in a state plan to improve program and services?

A detailed schedule and additional information is posted at www.isbe.net/essa. More details are also available below in this newsletter. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity and look forward to your thoughtful input.

Table of Contents

Every Student Succeeds Act	3
Assessment and Accountability	3
Data Analysis	4
Title Grant Administration	4
Nutrition and Wellness Programs	4
Special Education Services	5
English Language Learning.....	6
Family Engagement.....	6
School Safety Issues.....	7
Rules and Waivers.....	7
In Brief	7

I'd also like to highlight some new updates to the Illinois Report Card's At-A-Glance report. This report is one of the most helpful features of our award-winning [Report Card](#), giving families and community members an overview of the school's performance, environment, student characteristics, special programs, and extracurricular activities in a user-friendly format.

The At-A-Glance section now reflects Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment data, including new graphs that break down student achievement using PARCC's five-point performance level scale. The data shows individual school results compared to those of the district and the state for quick comparisons. New graphs also now show how well districts that serve high school students have prepared them for college. Additionally, the Achievement Gap graphs have been expanded to reflect PARCC findings in both English language arts and math. You can read more about these changes below.



The Illinois Report Card's At-A-Glance report has an updated look.

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 apply for 2016-17 School Grants for Healthy Kids** – April 1 (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 PTA's annual convention** – April 1-2 (www.illinoispta.org/convention.html)
- **World Autism Awareness Day** – April 2 (<https://www.autismspeaks.org/>)
- **Deadline to register for the April 20 School Safety Conference in Mount Prospect** – April 5 (www.gbriskcontrol.com/retasecurityregistration)
- **Illinois Healthy & High-Performing Green Schools Symposium** – April 8 (www.usgbc-illinois.org/events/schoolssymposium/)
- **Deadline to register for the April 26 Team Up for School Nutrition Success meeting in Springfield** – April 8 (www.surveymonkey.com/r/TeamUp42616)
- **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
- **Illinois Association of Title I Directors Spring Conference** – April 12 (www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1804223)
- **Deadline to register for a FY 2017 Consolidated Application Technical Assistance Workshop** – April 25 (www.isbe.net/grants/html/essa-workshops.htm)

- **Deadline to submit the Truants' Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP) FY 2017 RFP** – April 25
- **Team Up for School Nutrition Success meeting** – April 26
- **Ninth annual Illinois School Wellness Conference** – April 28 (www.actionforhealthykids.org/component/events/event/395)
- **National School Nurse Day** – May 11 (<http://www.nasn.org/AboutNASN/NationalSchoolNurseDay>)
- **Deadline to submit proposals for the Prevention Initiative Training and Technical Assistance: Birth to 3 Years RFP** – May 16 (<http://isbe.net/earlychi/html/birth-3.htm>)
- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision), Part 20 (Standards for Endorsements in Elementary Education), Part 25 (Educator Licensure) and Part 26 (Standards for Endorsements in Early Childhood Education and in Elementary Education)** – Public comment ends May 16
- **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)
- **Deadline to submit data in the Student Health - Vision system** – June 30
- **Deadline for Focus or Priority schools to update or develop and submit an Intervention or Transformation plan to ISBE** – 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 for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)

Every Student Succeeds Act

ISBE Listening Tour to Collect Feedback on the New Every Student Succeeds Act

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), with assistance from the Regional Offices of Education, is hosting a listening tour to collect feedback on the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

A series of eight meetings will be held across the state to provide overview information on ESSA and allow participants to share their ideas on how this important law should be implemented. Meetings are scheduled for the following dates and cities:

- April 18 – Belleville and Loves Park
- April 19 – Chicago Heights
- April 21 – Lombard
- April 25 – Vandalia
- April 26 – Skokie
- April 27 – Springfield and Macomb

For a more detailed schedule and additional information, visit www.isbe.net/essa.

The tour is the first opportunity to provide input on ESSA. ISBE will also engage stakeholders throughout

the process until full implementation takes place in 2017-18.

ESEA Changes Requirements for Highly Qualified Teachers

With the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), some provisions are being phased in or phased out, with full implementation set for 2017-18. One provision that is no longer required for the 2016-17 school year is the Highly Qualified requirements for teachers and paraprofessionals as outlined in section 1119 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Effective July 1, teachers and paraprofessionals must meet state and local licensure requirements.

For more information, please visit the ISBE Licensure Division's website at www.isbe.net/licensure/default.htm.

Assessment and Accountability

Illinois Science Assessment Update

An updated [FAQ document](http://www.isbe.net/assessment/isa.htm) on the new Illinois Science Assessment is now available at <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/isa.htm>.

The recordings and PowerPoint presentations from the Assessment Division's weekly webinars are also posted at www.isbe.net/assessment/default.htm.

Data Analysis

At-A-Glance Report Optimized

The At-A-Glance report has been updated on the Illinois Report Card. The At-A-Glance report is a great way to get a quick overview of how your school or district is performing in relation to the rest of the state.

The report is now optimized to reflect Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment data, including new graphs (the Academic Success graph and the Success by Student Group graph) that break down student achievement using PARCC's five-point performance level scale.

The report has also been enhanced with new graphs that show how well districts that serve high school students have prepared them for college. These graphs compare school or district percentages to state averages. Additionally, the Achievement Gap graphs have been expanded to reflect PARCC findings in both English language arts (ELA) and math.

For questions regarding the report card, please call the Data Analysis division at (217) 782-3950 or email reportcard@isbe.net.

Title Grant Administration

Illinois Association of Title I Directors Spring Conference Scheduled for April 12

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 12.

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/Files/93/IATD%20%20Tentative%20April%20AGENDA.pdf.

- **Illinois Association of Title I Directors Spring Conference**
- **Date:** April 12

- **Time:** 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Crowne Plaza, 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield
- **Register:**
www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1804223

FY 2017 Consolidated Application Technical Assistance Workshops

ISBE staff from the Title Grants and Federal and State Monitoring divisions is hosting one-day technical assistance workshops across the state this spring.

Each workshop will offer a new directors session, provide updates on what's new in the fiscal year 2017 Consolidated Application, and review the federal OmniCircular and its impact on auditing and monitoring. The afternoon session will focus on the Every Student Succeeds Act. More information on ESSA can be found at www.isbe.net/essa.

Workshops will be held May 3-12. The event is free and lunch will be provided. Space is limited, and participants should sign up for only one session.

For more information about these workshops, including instructions for registering, please visit <http://www.isbe.net/grants/html/essa-workshops.htm>. The deadline to register is April 25.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

Team Up for School Nutrition Success Meeting Planned for April 26 in Springfield

One school food service representative from each district is invited to participate in the Team Up for School Nutrition Success meeting on April 26 in Springfield.

The meeting is presented by ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN).

In recent years, school nutrition professionals across Illinois have made incredible achievements in improving the nutritious options offered in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, as well as in food and beverages outside of

the reimbursable meals sold to students in schools, as they are now subject to the USDA Smart Snacks requirements.

As a result of changes in both federal regulations and local practices, schools are providing more fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins in age-appropriate portion sizes. Students are trying a variety of foods they may be seeing for the first time, introducing them to healthy habits that they will hopefully adopt for life.

ISBE and USDA staff members understand that introducing these changes has not been easy and learning best practices as well as implementation tips from school nutrition professionals helps to improve the programs across the country. Therefore, Team Up for School Nutrition Success meetings are being held across the country. This type of meeting focuses on areas of concern for the participants and brings together groups of school nutrition professionals to discuss and ultimately plan for goals and strategies to improve operations within the programs.

The meeting agenda and additional details will be available in the weeks ahead. If you have questions regarding this meeting, please contact Roxanne Ramage at rramage@isbe.net or (800) 545-7892.

- **Team Up for School Nutrition Success meeting**
- **Date:** April 26
- **Time:** Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.; meeting ends at 5 p.m.
- **Location:** Illinois Education Association Professional Development Center, 3440 Liberty Drive, Springfield
- **Register:** Complete the registration survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/TeamUp42616 by April 8.

Registration Open for Annual Illinois School Wellness Conference

Registration is now open for Illinois Action for Healthy Kids' ninth annual Illinois School Wellness Conference.

This year's conference will be held on April 28 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. The event is intended for school administrators, educators, physical education teachers, school food personnel, school nurses, school

health/wellness team members, board members and other leaders of health organizations, students, and community advocates.

For more information, contact Illinois State Coordinator Ryan Monroe at rmonroe@actionforhealthykids.org.

- **Ninth Annual Illinois School Wellness Conference**
- **Date:** April 28
- **Time:** 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Location:** Crowne Plaza, 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield
- **Register:** www.actionforhealthykids.org/component/events/event/395

Special Education Services

New Autism-Focused Resources Available Online at No Cost

The Illinois Multi-Tiered System of Support Network (IL MTSS-Network) has developed a set of free online training modules for educators, other professional providers, and families who support individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The modules provide information on:

- Understanding ASD
- First signs for ASD
- Assessment practices for ASD
- Social skill strategies and support for students with ASD

With many students receiving services for an ASD in the Illinois public school system, individuals are encouraged to access these free online modules at www.ilmtss.net/autism-module.

Indicator 14 Update

Per Indicator 14 of the State Performance Plan (SPP), states are required to collect and report data to the U.S. Department of Education on postsecondary education/training and employment outcomes for youth with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) one year after leaving high school. Some districts in Illinois have been selected each spring to survey former students, using an eight-question data

collection tool that meets minimum federal reporting requirements.

Districts selected to administer the survey in 2016 will be offered the choice to use the existing data collection tool or use an expanded survey that will allow youth to provide additional information on their postsecondary experiences in education, employment, and independent living, as well as how high school prepared them for adult living.

Also for the first time with this year's survey, districts will be able to access aggregate data provided by their former students in the web application used to administer the survey. These changes are intended to make the information that is collected through the Illinois Post-School Survey more useful to local districts in evaluating the secondary transition services it provides to students with disabilities.

All small unit districts in the state and a sample of the high schools in City of Chicago School District 299 will be administering the Illinois Post-School Survey during the spring 2016 cycle. Districts selected to administer the survey will be notified in writing in the coming weeks. The anticipated window to complete the survey administration will be April 1 through June 30.

If you have questions about the Illinois Post-School Survey, please contact Mark Conyer at (217)782-5589 or mconyer@isbe.net. You can also visit the Indicator 14 Tools and Resources page at www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/indicator14.htm for further information.

PUNS Update

ISBE's Division of Special Education Services has added updated information on the Prioritization of Urgent Needs list (PUNS), which is a statewide waiting list of individuals with developmental disabilities who have applied for, and are awaiting, funding and/or services. Before one can be awarded funding for services, one must register on the PUNS list by meeting with a Pre-Admission Screening/Independent Service Coordination Agency to determine eligibility for services.

The updated information includes a list of Illinois PUNS Agencies by regions, a one-page chart that lists services that are provided by the 18 Illinois agencies, and an informational brochure that may be distributed at IEP meetings.

English Language Learning

Virtual Option Now Available for 2016 Seal of Biliteracy Symposium

Due to limited space at the Seal of Biliteracy Symposium, ISBE will offer a virtual option for participants to view the symposium through Zoom.

Please note that virtual participants will NOT be able to participate in the symposium, but there will be an online chat room for participants to post questions and comments. These questions and comments will be reviewed after the symposium and may be used for future development of the FAQs and Seal of Biliteracy program.

The deadline to register for the virtual option is April 7, 2016. Online registration is available at <http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/>. A link with directions to sign into Zoom will be emailed to participants by April 8.

Please email biliteracy@isbe.net or contact ISBE's Division of English Language Learning at (312) 814-3850 with any questions.

Family Engagement

Input Sought for New Website Promoting Family and School Engagement

ISBE and the University of Illinois are creating a new website focused on promoting family and school engagement. The new website will provide information, resources, activities, and ideas that highlight bringing families and schools together.

Currently, ISBE and university staff members are gathering information from school staff and families to learn what they would like included on the new website. Please consider filling out a short online survey and sharing this information with families and colleagues.

To participate, visit go.illinois.edu/ParentsSurvey.

School Safety Issues

School Safety Conference on April 20

ISBE, RETA Security, Oak Park and River Forest High School, Oak Park Police and Fire Department, and Proviso Area for Exceptional Children are hosting a gathering of experts in the field of school safety and crisis prevention to heighten safety awareness. The April 20 event in Mount Prospect is free and will teach participants how to enhance the safety and security of their school facility on a day-to-day basis and long term. This vital information will be practical and easy to apply, and there will be ample time for specific questions.

- **Date:** April 20
- **Time:** 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Location:** Bristol Palace, 828 E. Rand Road, Mount Prospect, IL 60056
- **Registration:**
www.gbriskcontrol.com/retasecurityregistration

Registration is open through April 5. District administrators, school administrators, police and fire officials, transportation directors, and any other party in charge of school safety are encouraged to attend. Registration is limited to four people per department or school. If more than four participants are needed, please call Randy Braverman at (224) 578-0484.

Rules and Waivers

Invitation to Comment on Rules

Four sets of proposed amendments recently reviewed by ISBE are available for public comment. The proposals and a summary of the issues involved have been posted at www.isbe.net/rules; choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net. The public comment period ends May 16. The rulemakings are:

- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision),**
- **Part 20 (Standards for Endorsements in Elementary Education),**
- **Part 25 (Educator Licensure), and**
- **Part 26 (Standards for Endorsements in Early Childhood Education and in Elementary Education).**

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that four sets of amendments recently adopted by ISBE became effective March 2.

Changes have been posted at 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 Section 1.540.

Part 25 (Educator Licensure): See Sections 25.15, 25.25, 25.60, 25.70, 25.72, 25.335, 25.337, 25.345, 25.355, 25.400, 25.425, 25.450, 25.480, 25.485, 25.486, 25.487, 25.488, 25.489, 25.490, 25.491, 25.520, 25.610, 25.620, 25.800, 25.805, 25.830 and 25.855.

Part 425 (Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools): See Sections 425.20 and 425.30.

Part 525 (Regional Offices of Education and Intermediate Services): See Sections 525.20 and 525.50.

In Brief

Upcoming Events

- **World Autism Awareness Day** will be held April 2 to shine a light on autism as a global health priority. Every year, Autism Speaks celebrates its international “**Light It Up Blue**” campaign. This year in Illinois, Chicago will light up more than 250 buildings and landmarks to spread awareness and understanding of autism, celebrate and honor the unique talents and skills of people with autism, and bring attention to the needs of all people with autism. For more information, including resources and tools for parents and teachers, visit Autism Speaks at www.autismspeaks.org.

Classroom Resources

- The **Veterans National Education Program (V-NEP)** provides free resources for teaching modern history and current conflicts from World War II to the present time. The organization also has created the [Global Awareness Map](#) initiative, an online,

interactive tool that offers more than 600 video clips that encourage middle and high school students to explore real-world problems and challenges in more than 40 countries. V-NEP recently added 30 new video clips on France and Belgium. For more information, visit <http://v-nep.org>.

Grant Opportunities

- **GetEdFunding** is a free grant-finding resource dedicated to helping educators and institutions identify the funding they need. The resource hosts a collection of thousands of grants and opportunities available from federal, state, regional, and community sources. It is available to public and private preK–12 schools, school districts, and educators; higher education institutions; and nonprofit organizations that work with them. For more information, visit www.getedfunding.com/c/index.web?s@I2DZMu gPAAkuo.

District Recognition

- **J. Sterling Morton High School District 201** has been named a College Board Advanced Placement® District of the Year. The award recognizes the district as the nation's leader among medium-size school districts in simultaneously expanding access to challenging AP courses while improving AP exam performance. Read more [here](#).

Educator Opportunities

- The official state affiliate of the national Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents has formed. The **Illinois Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents** (IALAS) is made up of like-minded professionals focused on education and a commitment to all students. Its mission statement is to provide authentic, high-quality learning opportunities for students by building capacity among Latino educational leaders and by advocating for responsive, informed policy development. IALAS is currently running a free membership drive. Information about becoming a member, its newsletter, and upcoming events can be found at www.ialas.org.
- The Illinois Association of School Administrators is hosting a series of **Leadership in Literacy**

workshops for its members in April. The workshops will focus on innovative solutions, including resolving grade-level reading deficiencies through the Souday System from Winsor Learning and the influence of reading preparedness on lifelong learning supported by myOn. Click [here](#) for dates and registration information.

School Opportunities

- The **Kid Explorer Club** is a comprehensive reading curriculum for pre-K through sixth grades that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards. The curriculum is diversity inclusive, enhances the student's existing school education, and is customized to overcome individual learning challenges. Students at Title I schools qualify for a tuition grant that will cover nearly 100 percent of the tuition cost. To become a host site for the summer or next school year, contact Regional Director Beatrice Cooper at (773) 672-7492, ext. 1, or beatrice@kidexplorerclub.com.

District Opportunities

- Applications are now being accepted for the \$100,000 **Innovations in American Government Awards**. Offered by Harvard Kennedy School's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, the Innovations Award recognizes programs that demonstrate creative and effective government at its best. All units of government are eligible to apply for recognition. Applications and additional information are available at www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu. The deadline to apply is April 15.

Student Opportunities

- **Latino Art Beat** is offering \$1,000-minimum scholarships to the winners of its 2016 visual arts competition for high school juniors and seniors. For the arts competition, students may select one of two themes: "Friendship: Between the Youth of the USA and Cuba" and "What Hispanic Heritage & Culture Means to Me." Artwork must be accompanied by an entry form and original essay describing the piece. Latino Art Beat is also offering its film and animation competition for students under 21 who attend a high school or college in Illinois. Films must be original, with an

original score and 15 minutes or less total running time. The deadline for all entries is May 27. For more information, visit www.latinoartbeat.com or contact latinoartbeat@hotmail.com.

School Safety

- The **Illinois School Resource Officers Association's Annual Training Conference** will take place June 22-24 in Normal. The event is open to all school-based law enforcement officers, school administrators, and school security/safety professionals. For more information, visit www.ilsroa.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>.