



# Weekly Message

**April 11, 2017**

## Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

Meeting the needs of the whole child is a “whole community” effort. Strong leadership and innovative partnerships are key to fostering positive school environments that meet the needs of all kids throughout the continuum of early childhood through college and career.

I am excited to introduce ISBE’s new chief education officer, Libia Gil. Libia will lead all student support, academic program, school assistance, and district support services as we embark on the work to implement the ESSA State Plan for Illinois. Libia brings deep classroom experience, education system expertise, and passion to ensure that every child has fair access to a high-quality education. She has worked as a teacher, bilingual resource specialist and bilingual-ESL coordinator, desegregation officer, elementary school principal, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, and district superintendent. Libia most recently served as assistant deputy secretary and director for the Office of English Language Acquisition at the U.S. Department of Education under Secretaries of Education Arne Duncan and John King. Prior to this role, she was vice president for practice at the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning in Chicago. She was also a senior fellow and managing director at the American Institutes for Research (AIR), where she developed and co-led the AIR Center for English Language Learners. Libia’s knowledge and leadership will be a true asset to Illinois as we continue to work toward the Board’s goals for all students.

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Strong school leadership is crucial to creating schools where all students can thrive. This week is National Assistant Principals Week, which provides an opportunity for us to recognize the important contributions of assistant principals year-round. Check out [these ideas](#) for how to show appreciation for your assistant principals. How have you been celebrating your APs this week? Share your acknowledgments and words of appreciation on social media with #APWeek17 – and tag us in your posts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) so we can share them, too. Thank you for all you do for Illinois schools, APs!

District-community partnerships and innovative teaching benefit our students by enriching learning opportunities. I would like to recognize Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD 429 for collaborating with the Education for Employment system, vocational schools, colleges, and industry to enhance STEM education. The district secured funds from the America’s Farmers Grow Rural Education program to

develop an apple orchard. The orchard, part of the district's learning laboratories in Agricultural Education, will offer a setting for science experiments and other hands-on learning experiences that will help students understand research and production processes. Produce from the orchard will be given to the community's local food pantry. The America's Farmers Grow Rural Education program also awarded grants to [12 other Illinois districts](#) in 2016. Learn more about the America's Farmers Grow Rural Education program at [www.GrowRuralEducation.com](http://www.GrowRuralEducation.com).

Three Illinois teachers were named 2017 National Teachers of the Year by Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE America). Congratulations to Melinda Wilson from Curie Metropolitan High School (Dance Education), Andrew Milne from New Trier High School (Health Education), and Linda Carlson from Oak Park and River Forest High School (High School Physical Education). I would like to recognize Linda for her Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) course, which is mandatory for all freshmen attending the school. Linda says her class aims to teach students about positive and healthy relationships and friendships and empowers them to take care of their social-emotional health. Linda has collaborated with other educators to help spread the RAD program to other Illinois schools. Learn more [here](#).

Finally, this week is also National Library Week. Please join us in honoring our libraries and librarians for inspiring creativity and encouraging literacy. The [American Library Association](#) has ideas for how you can celebrate! Start by using #NationalLibraryWeek and #LibrariesTransform on social media to share your appreciation. School library and media specialists in Illinois offered important insight throughout the development of our ESSA State Plan. ISBE deeply appreciates librarians' and media specialists' advocacy regarding how we can support the whole child, enhance rigorous personalized learning experiences, and ensure equitable access to resources for all students.

Have a great week!

Tony

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### ***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>.

- **Annual Pupil Transportation Claim Completion – Live Webinar** – April 12
- **Illinois State Board of Education Meeting** – April 13
- **ESSA State Plan Webinar** – April 17
- **Every Kid Healthy Week** – April 24-28
- **Deadline to apply for Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program** – April 21
- **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
- **Deadline to submit data for EIS Employment, Position Records, and Noncertified Staff aggregated FTE counts** – May 15
- **Deadline to submit FY 2018 Preschool For All Professional Development Project RFP** – May 16
- **Illinois State Board of Education Meeting** – May 24

- **Deadline to submit 2017-18 Student Advisory Council applications** – May 26  
[www.isbe.net/Pages/Student-Advisory-Council.aspx](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Student-Advisory-Council.aspx)
- **ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day** – May 29
- **Deadline for SFAs to submit Procurement Procedures and Code of Conduct documents** – May 31
- **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](http://www.isbe.net/Documents/03-10-those-who-excel.pdf))
- **Illinois State Board of Education Meeting** – June 14
- **Lead, Focus, Connect Conference** – June 19
- **Deadline to submit data in the Student Health Data Vision** – June 30
- **Deadline to submit SY 2017-18 CEP documentation** – 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](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Waivers.aspx) for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)

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## Summer Conference

### Registration Now Open for Lead, Focus, Connect on June 19

ISBE and the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools are hosting the “Lead, Focus, Connect” conference on June 19 at the Wyndam Center in Springfield.

The conference will update participants on various state initiatives, policy, regulation, and mandates, as well as focus on topics that include math strategies, English language arts, Next Generation Science Standards, multi-tier systems of support, safe and supportive schools, licensure, English Learners, and many more. Presenters will include school leaders, Regional Office of Education representatives, and ISBE content specialists.

All teachers and administrators are encouraged to attend. The cost is \$75 per participant, lunch included.

To register, please visit  
<http://educationregistration.org/index.php/iarss>.

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## School Health Issues

### Company Announces Voluntary Recall for EpiPen Auto-Injectors

Many school districts have taken advantage of the free epinephrine provided by Mylan, a retailer and distributor of EpiPen auto-injectors. Mylan has announced that Meridian Medical Technologies, a Pfizer company and Mylan's manufacturing partner for EpiPen Auto-Injector, has expanded a voluntary recall of select lots of EpiPen (epinephrine injection, USP)

and EpiPen Jr (epinephrine injection, USP) Auto-Injectors to now include additional lots distributed in the United States and other markets in consultation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The recalled product was manufactured by Meridian and distributed between December 2015 and July 2016. [A detailed list of product and additional information is available online.](#)

If school officials think they are in possession of a recalled product, they should first contact Stericycle at (877) 650-3494. Stericycle will ask a series of questions about the EpiPen 2-Pak or EpiPen Jr 2-Pak cartons in possession to confirm if the carton comes from one of the recalled lots. Stericycle will initiate the process of providing a prepaid return package for product return through the mail. Stericycle also will work directly with Mylan to quickly facilitate a replacement. Schools should not return any devices affected by the recall to Stericycle until they have their replacement in hand.

### ‘Asthma Management for School Staff’ Webinar Available Online

A recording of the webinar [“Asthma Management for School Staff” is available online](#). The webinar was presented April 6 by the Respiratory Health Association, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Illinois State Board of Education.

The 41-minute long webinar covers learning how to support students to manage their asthma, including identifying asthma triggers, proper inhaler technique, and how to respond during an asthma emergency. Registration is required to access the recording by clicking the link above.

Participants who attend the entire webinar, as evidenced by ISBE attendance logs, will be issued a certificate offering nursing education credit for RNs or LPNs or a certificate of attendance that may be used for non-nurses to confirm attendance. The certificate will be issued via email to the participant within two weeks of attending the webinar.

For more information, please send an email to [jgerdes@isbe.net](mailto:jgerdes@isbe.net).

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### **Student Advisory Council**

#### **Student Advisory Council Application Available Online for 2017-18 School Year**

Applications are currently being accepted for ISBE's Student Advisory Council for the 2017-18 school year. Students attending a public high school in Illinois who are entering the fall semester as a sophomore, junior, or senior are eligible to apply. The application is now available at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Student-Advisory-Council.aspx>. Ten positions are open for the 2017-18 school year. Interested candidates must complete the application and essays. The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. May 26. If you have questions, please contact Vince Camille at (217) 557-6763 or [vcamille@isbe.net](mailto:vcamille@isbe.net).

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### **Every Student Succeeds Act**

#### **ESSA State Plan Webinar**

Please join ISBE for a webinar about the recently submitted ESSA State Plan for Illinois at 10 a.m. on April 17. ISBE submitted the Illinois ESSA State Plan to the U.S. Department of Education on April 3 after more than 100 stakeholder meetings and 15 months of work. The plan can be found at <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ESSAStatePlanforIllinois.pdf> and supporting documents are available at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ESSA-Draft-Report.aspx>. This webinar will discuss the substance of the ESSA State Plan for Illinois and next steps for this work.

To register for the webinar, please visit <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7765686082018658562>.

#### **Title I District Plan, Schoolwide Waiver, and Schoolwide Template Webinar**

The implementation of ESSA is prompting changes in the way the Title I program is administered. Please join ISBE for a webinar about the new flexibilities and opportunities for Title I at 10 a.m. on April 20.

ISBE is developing a new tool for submitting the Title I District Plan via IWAS. The Title I District Plan must be approved prior to the Consolidate Application being approved. In addition, ESSA allows the state to waive the poverty percent requirement for schools to become schoolwide. This waiver process will be discussed during this webinar. Lastly, the schoolwide requirements have changed under ESSA. This applies to schools who are already schoolwide and those who are moving schoolwide. A template is being developed to facilitate the process to ensure all schoolwide buildings are meeting the new requirements and meeting the needs of their students. The schoolwide waiver and the schoolwide template will be released shortly at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Schoolwide-Programs.aspx> under "What's New." The Title I District Plan will be released on IWAS shortly as well. This webinar will go over each in detail and allow time for questions.

To register, please visit <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6234540271932233986>.

#### **Foster Care Transportation Guidelines Webinar**

Students in foster care are more likely than their peers to experience adverse educational outcomes. Please join ISBE for a webinar at 1 p.m. on May 4. The webinar will provide an overview of the foster care provisions in ESSA, in particular the point of contact requirement and the transportation procedures requirement. An updated e-bulletin that will guide the webinar is available and a transportation guidelines are available at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Foster-Care.aspx>. Representatives from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and ISBE will be available to answer questions on these new provisions under ESSA.



To register, please visit

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4275228145590038017>.

## Nutrition and Wellness Programs

### Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Application Online; Deadline Extended



The [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program \(FFVP\) application for School Year 2017-18](#) is available. Carefully review the application for all of the FFVP program requirements. All elementary schools (grades 8 and below) that participate in the National School Lunch Program (NLSP) and have

100 percent of their students eligible for free and reduced price meals are eligible to apply. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires highest priority be given to schools with the highest percentage of low-income students.

Due to the number of elementary schools in Illinois at 100 percent free and reduced-price eligibility and that there was not enough funding the prior year to cover all schools that applied at that level, this application is being released only to elementary schools with 100 percent free and reduced-price eligibility based upon October 2016 eligibility data. If unable to fund all schools that apply with 100 percent free and reduced price eligibility, the enrollment based on October 2016 eligibility data will be the deciding factor, with the smaller enrollment number being awarded. If funds remain after awarding under this application release, an additional application will be released for additional schools to apply.

**The deadline to apply for FFVP (SY 2017-18) is now April 21.**

The purpose of FFVP is to increase fresh fruit and vegetable consumption in elementary schools participating in NSLP. FFVP funds are used to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to children at no cost, during the school day outside of the reimbursable meal(s) periods. **This program is different from the Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.** The DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program allocate USDA Foods planned

assistance level monies so that schools may acquire fresh fruits and vegetable to use during the service of reimbursable meals to students (breakfast and lunch).

If you have questions regarding FFVP, please contact Roxanne Ramage ([rramage@isbe.net](mailto:rramage@isbe.net)) at (800) 545-7892.

### SFAs Must Submit Procurement Procedures and Code of Conduct Documents by May 31

The Illinois State Board of Education is required to monitor School Food Authorities (SFAs) to ensure that purchases meet federal procurement statutes/executive orders and to ensure that federal regulations are followed as outlined in 7 CFR 210.21(c) and 2 CFR part 200.

As a pre-review step, SFAs are required to update their Code of Conduct for financial procurement and develop detailed Procurement Procedures as required in 2 CFR part 200.

The [Illinois Association of School Boards](#) (IASB) has provided examples of acceptable Code of Conduct and detailed Procurement Procedures in the March issue of PRESS. Please contact IASB to inquire about a copy.

A letter will be sent to all School Food Authorities this month with a financial questionnaire to be completed. The financial questionnaire, updated copies of the Code of Conduct, and detailed Procurement Procedures must be submitted to ISBE by May 31.

For additional assistance on these documents, please see our website at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/National-School-Lunch-Program.aspx>.

### Sign Up for Free School Nutrition Programs Back to School Conference

Registration is underway for the School Nutrition Programs Back to School Conference. The free conference, “Putting the Pieces Together,” will be presented Aug. 2-3 by ISBE’s Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division at the Crowne Plaza Springfield.

The conference is for all school nutrition professionals and will cover a wide range of topics. Attendees can get ready to start the new school year off right and earn annual training hours required for school nutrition

program employees by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The conference kicks off at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 2, with three pre-conference session choices: new staff orientation, food handler (train the trainer), and Illinois Physical Fitness and Data Reporting Requirements.

First day sessions (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) include those on menu planning, the Community Eligibility Provision, procurement, resource management, WINS, special dietary accommodations, meal counting and claiming, and more. Registration opens at 9:30 a.m. with a welcome session at 10 a.m.

The second day (7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.) includes sessions on USDA Foods, local wellness policies, USDA Smart Snacks, food safety, Farm to Schools, and more. See the tentative agenda online and additional information at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/SNPB2S.aspx>.

Register online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017SNPB2S>. For questions, email [cnp@isbe.net](mailto:cnp@isbe.net) or call (800) 545-7892.

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## State Support Network

### New State Support Network Website

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of State Support recently announced the new [State Support Network](#) website, an online platform designed to support school improvement efforts by providing states and districts with opportunities to engage with their peers and connect with experts and resources.

The State Support Network collaborates with states, districts, and technical assistance partners to elevate student outcomes, scale systemic solutions, share learning, and leverage effective evidence-based practices. The network also provides supports on topics such as ESSA, English language proficiency, and development of comprehensive needs assessments.

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## Early Childhood Education

### FY 2018 Preschool For All Professional Development Project RFP Released

The Preschool for All Professional Development Project Request for Proposals (RFP) is now available. The

intent of this RFP is to fund a successful applicant to provide PD and technical assistance to the recipients of PFA grants. Proposals must be received at ISBE no later than 4 p.m. on May 16.

The RFP is available at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/RFPs.aspx>. Questions may be submitted to the Early Childhood Division at [earlychi@isbe.net](mailto:earlychi@isbe.net).

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## Educator Effectiveness

### Illinois Licensure Testing System Pilot Testing Still Available

Illinois Licensure Testing System (ILTS) pilot testing is still available for the following fields:

- Agricultural Education
- Early Childhood Education
- Health Education
- Reading Specialist
- School Psychologist
- Superintendent
- Technology Education

Pilot testing is available at Pearson VUE test centers throughout Illinois and in nearby cities from **now through April 15**. A pilot test takes approximately 120 minutes to complete (165 minutes for the superintendent pilot test). Pilot tests provide an excellent opportunity for Illinois teacher/administrator candidates to view test questions that may appear on actual tests. They also allow for the collection of information about the performance of new test questions to ensure that they are appropriate for use at future ILTS test administrations.

Please encourage educators who will be pursuing licensure/endorsement in one of the subject areas listed above in Illinois, or who were recently licensed and have no more than three years of experience as an educator, to register today to take a pilot test.

Registration opened March 6. Eligible candidates should visit the following website to register:

For the content-area tests:  
<http://www.pearsonvue.com/espilot/ILTS5.asp>

For the superintendent test:

<http://www.pearsonvue.com/espilot/ILTS4.asp>

If you have questions or need further information, please contact the ILTS program at [es-  
ilts@pearson.com](mailto:es-ilts@pearson.com).

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## In Brief

### Upcoming Events

- Did you know April is **Sexual Assault Awareness Month**? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently released “[STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence](#)” to help states and communities prioritize efforts to prevent sexual violence.
- **Families for Depression** is offering a free webinar for parents, teachers, school counselors and staff, and others interested. The webinar is set for 2-3:15 p.m. on May 3. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

### Student Recognition

- **Congratulations to the FFA members** who were named [State Proficiency Winners](#) in each area and will be moving on to the national level competition!
- **Congratulations to Lane Tech High School and Phoenix Military Academy in Chicago and Joliet Central High School** for advancing to the 2017 JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl Championship in Washington, D.C. Great work!

### Educator Recognition

- **Congratulations to Daria Schaffeld of Prospect High School**, Mount Prospect, for being named a winner of the 2017 American Psychological Association Award for Excellence in Teaching!

### District Recognition

- **Congratulations to the Career and Technology Education Departments at Rochelle Middle School, Normal Community High School, and Barrington District 220** for being awarded the Program Excellence Award at the annual

conference for the International Technology and Engineering Education Association!

### 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/](http://www.directionsconference.com/).
- ROE West 40 ISC #2 is hosting the **Midwest Summit for 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.firsteducation-us.com/first-2017-aurora-il.html).

### ISBE Employment Opportunities

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