



# Weekly Message

**April 12, 2016**

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

Hello,

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will meet Wednesday via video conference in Chicago, Springfield, and Marion. The [agenda](#) includes an update on the 5Essentials Survey, an online statewide survey to collect feedback on learning conditions and environments at each school. The presentation will include an overview of trend data and district feedback on the survey as well as valuable information on how the survey process will evolve during the upcoming school year.

The 5Essentials Survey is a diagnostic tool that provides schools with fine-grained data on five leading indicators for school improvement: Effective Leaders, Collaborative Teachers, Involved Families, Supportive Environment, and Ambitious Instruction. The 5Essentials collects feedback from teachers, students, and parents and all district schools are required to participate in the survey at least every other year. This year was ISBE's fourth administration of the survey, which took place from Jan. 11 to March 11.

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For the 2016-17 school year, we are moving the 5Essentials administration window up earlier in the school year to extend from Nov. 16 to Jan. 16, 2017. ISBE made this decision in response to feedback from a subcommittee I assembled of

district superintendents and representatives from state education and educator organizations, who felt the previous survey window was difficult to manage along with spring statewide assessments. The adjusted administration dates should prove more convenient for districts while still giving respondents enough time to provide informed responses on conditions for the school year to that point. Superintendents' voices have been critical in our efforts to improve the survey process, and I appreciate those of you who have shared your input.

The next survey will also once again give all educators and students in the state a unique log-in to take the survey. This rostering process improves the validity and accuracy of responses. Additional details about how to submit your rosters via the Employment Information System will be forthcoming.

The 5Essentials provides valuable data that can help schools continually assess their progress and build positive relationships within their communities. I encourage you all to listen to Wednesday's presentation and think of how this tool can help shape and evaluate your school improvement efforts. The PowerPoint is posted in the Board meeting packet at [www.isbe.net/board/meetings/2016/apr/packet.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/board/meetings/2016/apr/packet.pdf).

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>.

- **Seal of Biliteracy Symposium** – April 12
- **Illinois Association of Title I Directors Spring Conference** – April 12  
([www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1804223](http://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1804223))
- **Guidance on Developing and Submitting the Quality School Options RFP webinar** – April 15  
(<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3716657538566102273>)
- **Deadline to submit data for Employment Information System employment, position records, and non-certified aggregated FTE counts** – April 15 ([www.isbe.net/eis/html/archived-meetings.htm#eis-basics](http://www.isbe.net/eis/html/archived-meetings.htm#eis-basics))
- **Deadline to register for a FY 2017 Consolidated Application Technical Assistance Workshop** – April 25 ([www.isbe.net/grants/html/essa-workshops.htm](http://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](http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/component/events/event/395))
- **Deadline to apply for entities interested in providing Performance Evaluation Reform Act training to board members for the Optional Alternative Evaluation Dismissal process** – May 1  
(<http://isbe.net/pera/html/oaed.htm>)
- **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
- **Deadline to apply for ISBE's 2016-17 Student Advisory Council** – May 27 ([www.isbe.net/sac/](http://www.isbe.net/sac/))
- **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](http://www.isbe.net/those-who-excel/2017/03-10-twe-application16-17.pdf))
- **Deadline to apply for the 2016 Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program Cycle** - June 17  
([www.idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/local-transportation-partners/county-engineers-and-local-public-agencies/funding-opportunities/ITEP](http://www.idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/local-transportation-partners/county-engineers-and-local-public-agencies/funding-opportunities/ITEP))
- **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
- **Deadline to submit the FY17 Continuation Applications for the Alternative Learning Opportunities Programs (ALOPs)** – June 30 ([www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/alop.htm](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/alop.htm))
- **ISBE offices closed for Independence Day** – July 4
- **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](http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm) for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)
- **ISBE offices closed for Labor Day** – Sept. 5

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## State Funding and Forecasting

### Projections for General State Aid by District Now Available Online

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has released figures for the fiscal year 2017 General State Aid (GSA) forecast revised for spring with new data. The files are posted at [www.isbe.net/funding/html/gsa.htm#fy17](http://www.isbe.net/funding/html/gsa.htm#fy17) and show how much state aid each school district in Illinois will receive under the Governor's plan to fully fund education to the foundation level.

The forecast reflects district estimates of average daily attendance and preliminary Department of Human Services service numbers for the low-income portion of GSA.

The files include a geographic summary of the number of districts gaining or losing funds and counts of the data that changed, causing declines in claims. Each district that loses funds experienced at least one of the following: 1. increased local wealth; 2. decreased attendance; 3. a decrease in the three-year average of low-income students; and/or 4. a decrease in the proportion of low-income students.

Preliminary forecast variables and a template for individual district forecasts are also available at this link. Using the data to complete the template allows districts that are not switching formula types to determine how much of the change in forecast GSA claim is attributable to the different data elements used in calculations.

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## Every Student Succeeds Act

### More Dates Added to ESSA Listening Tour

Additional dates have been added to ISBE's listening tour to collect feedback on the new Every Student

Succeeds Act (ESSA). For a complete schedule and additional information, visit [www.isbe.net/essa](http://www.isbe.net/essa).

With assistance from the Regional Offices of Education, ISBE is holding meetings across the state to provide overview information on ESSA and allow participants to share their ideas on how this important law should be implemented.

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.

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## Special Education Services

### Early Intervention 27-Month List Now Available in New Electronic Format

ISBE's Special Education Services and Early Childhood divisions are pleased to announce that the provision of the 27-month list to districts is now available in electronic format. This new process will be available online in the Student Information System (SIS) via IWAS, located at [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net).

The 27-month list notifies districts of children in the Early Intervention program who will be turning 3 years old and may be eligible for special education services in the public school. The list assists districts in ensuring that any eligible children have Individualized Education Program (IEP) services in place by their third birthday.

Previously, the lists were mailed to staff in either a district or special education cooperative. With the online system, staff members who wish to access the report must contact personnel within the district/entity that have access to SIS. Once logged into SIS, access the "Reports" link. The "Early Intervention to Early Childhood Special Education Transition" report is

located under the Early Learning category. This report will include all students between 27 and 37 months of age who have been reported from the Department of Human Services and will be refreshed/updated at the beginning of each month.

The online system will reduce costs, paper consumption, and the amount of time needed to provide the lists. It will also allow districts and their special education cooperatives to access the lists for simultaneous viewing. Please direct any questions to Kristy Doan, Early Childhood Education, at [kdoan@isbe.net](mailto:kdoan@isbe.net) and (217) 524-4835 or Felicia Malloy, Special Education Services, at [fmalloy@isbe.net](mailto:fmalloy@isbe.net) and (217) 782-5589.

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## **Illinois Department of Transportation**

### **Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program Applications Available**

On Dec. 4, 2015, a new transportation bill, Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act or "FAST Act," was signed into law. The act is the first federal law in more than 10 years to provide long-term funding certainty for surface transportation. The FAST Act eliminated the MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and replaced it with a set-aside of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program funding for transportation alternatives authorized under Section 1109 of the FAST Act (23 U.S.C. 133(h)). This new STBG program set-aside provides funding for the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP).

The ITEP provides funding for community-based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure. It is designed to promote and develop alternative transportation options, including bike and pedestrian travel, along with streetscape beautification.

The federal funds are awarded competitively, and projects must be related to surface transportation. Eligible applicants include all entities that were eligible to apply for TAP funds. Any local or state government with taxing authority is also eligible to apply. In addition, the FAST Act allows nonprofit

entities responsible for the administration of local transportation safety programs to apply.

Approximately \$29 million is available to award for selected projects, with the maximum award per project capped at \$2 million. IDOT will accept applications for the 2016 ITEP Cycle from May 2 to June 17.

Click [here](#) for additional information, including applications and guidelines.

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## **School Health Issues**

### **FBI Drug Prevention Resource Available for High Schools**

The FBI has created a documentary that illustrates the toll of opiate addiction. The film, called "Chasing the Dragon," can be downloaded for free at [www.fbi.gov/ChasingTheDragon](http://www.fbi.gov/ChasingTheDragon). The documentary targets high school students and is designed to send a message of deterrence to young people.

The 45-minute film, made in cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Administration, also includes interviews with medical and law enforcement professionals, who talk about the effects of addiction and the unique aspects of the opiate epidemic in the United States. "This epidemic does not discriminate. All across this country, it is taking good people from good homes and leading them down a trail that often ends in pain and sadness," FBI Director James Comey said. "This film may be difficult to watch, but we hope it educates our students and young adults about the tragic consequences that come with abusing these drugs and that it will cause people to think twice before becoming its next victim."

### **Substance Use Resources Available**

The Family Resource Center is a project funded through a grant that the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse received in 2015. The goal of the Family Resource Center is to ensure that there is family involvement and input in all aspects of adolescent care within the Illinois substance abuse treatment system. Resources are available for families, youth, and providers at the following link: <http://illinoisfamilyresourcecenter.org/>.

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## **Nutrition and Wellness Programs**

### **Midwest Dairy Council Earth Day Webinar**

The Midwest Dairy Council is holding a webinar on Earth Day, April 22, to discuss dairy farmers' ongoing commitment to sustainability as well as the dairy community's efforts to minimize dairy's overall impact on the environment.

The event begins at 11 a.m. To register, visit <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/329569088063899394>.

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## **Center for Educator Effectiveness**

### **Optional Alternative Evaluation Dismissal Process Training Requirements**

Senate Bill 7 established a new section of the School Code, Section 24-16.5, that creates the Optional Alternative Evaluation Dismissal (OAED) process. The OAED process may be utilized on or after a school district's Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) Implementation Date and is designed to further streamline the hearing procedure for the dismissal of tenured teachers related to performance. This dismissal process may be used only after a "teacher has failed to complete a remediation plan with a rating equal to or better than a proficient rating. . . [and] the unsatisfactory performance rating evaluation that preceded remediation resulted from a PERA evaluation." [105 ILCS 5/24-16.5].

The statute prescribes that only "PERA-trained board members" may participate in the vote on whether to retain or dismiss a teacher when the district uses the OAED process. Board members seeking to be trained on PERA for the purposes of the OAED process must complete training offered by an entity approved by ISBE. Note: Only board members in districts that will be using the OAED process must be PERA trained.

Entities interested in providing PERA training to board members for the OAED process must apply by **May 1**. Application materials and additional information can be found at <http://isbe.net/pera/html/oaed.htm>.

Questions can be directed to [oaedapplication@isbe.net](mailto:oaedapplication@isbe.net).

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## **Charter Schools**

### **Guidance on Developing and Submitting the Quality School Options Grant RFP**

A webinar is scheduled for April 15 to provide an overview of the first round of Quality School Options Grants, as well as to provide guidance on completing the online request for proposals (RFP).

The webinar will include a summary of the grants available, an update on the revised timeline for the competition, and the rules and requirements for the grants. The RFP for the grants will be entirely online; therefore, the guidance will include a review of each of the components for a complete RFP; discussion of budgets, goals, objectives; and narratives in order to present a coherent plan.

The webinar should take approximately two hours, with a 10-minute intermission and opportunities for questions throughout. Charter school consultants will be available during the remaining time to answer any site or context-specific questions that individual attendees may have.

If you are unavailable to attend the live webinar, the informational portion will be recorded and posted on ISBE's [charter school website](#).

- **Guidance on Developing and Submitting the Quality School Options RFP webinar**
- **Date:** April 15
- **Time:** 1 to 3:30 p.m.
- **Register:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3716657538566102273>

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## **Student Advisory Council**

### **Student Advisory Council Application Available Online for 2016-17 School Year**

Applications are currently being accepted for ISBE's Student Advisory Council for the 2016-17 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 [www.isbe.net/sac](http://www.isbe.net/sac).



Twelve positions are open for the 2016-17 school year. Interested candidates must complete the application and essays.

The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. May 27.

If you have questions, please contact Vince Camille at (217) 782-5396 or [vcamille@isbe.net](mailto:vcamille@isbe.net).

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## **Data Analysis**

### **Final EIS Deadline for Federal Requirements Approaching**

This notice is to remind districts that the final deadline to submit data for Employment Information System (EIS) employment, position records, and non-certified aggregated FTE counts to comply with federal reporting requirements is April 15.

As covered in the October webinar “Introduction to 2016 EIS: New Features and Updates” (available at [www.isbe.net/eis/html/archived-meetings.htm#eis-basics](http://www.isbe.net/eis/html/archived-meetings.htm#eis-basics)), certain data elements have been enhanced or introduced, in accordance with federal law. A brief explanation of these changes includes:

- Clarification on entering district superintendents and principals
- Adjusted FTE minimum
- New single salary model to allow for multiple positions and work locations
- Position codes have been added or removed as needed
- Capability to generate IEIN numbers has been removed

For detailed descriptions of these updates as well as information on upcoming enhancements, please reference the webinar at [www.isbe.net/eis/html/archived-meetings.htm#eis-basics](http://www.isbe.net/eis/html/archived-meetings.htm#eis-basics).

Again, the final deadline for 2016 EIS employment, position records, and non-certified employee aggregated FTE counts is April 15. Please submit the data using IWAS or batch files.

For tutorials explaining data entry with both IWAS submissions and batch uploads, please see ISBE’s

interactive EIS Basics Course at [www.isbe.net/eis/html/training.htm](http://www.isbe.net/eis/html/training.htm).

For further assistance, contact the EIS help desk at (217) 782-3950 or email [datahelp@isbe.net](mailto:datahelp@isbe.net).

For technical assistance with IWAS, please contact the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

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## **Funding and Disbursements**

### **2014-15 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 2014-15 report has been compiled and is at [www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/driver-ed-cost-rpt-14-15.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/driver-ed-cost-rpt-14-15.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 fiscal year 2015 are at [www.isbe.net/sfms/html/financial\\_archive.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sfms/html/financial_archive.htm).

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

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## **Title Grant Administration**

### **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.

Workshops will be held May 3-12. Please note the schedule has been updated and is posted at [www.isbe.net/grants/html/essa-workshops.htm](http://www.isbe.net/grants/html/essa-workshops.htm).

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](http://www.isbe.net/essa).

The event is free and lunch will be provided. Space is limited, and participants should sign up for only one session. For more information, including instructions for registering, please visit [www.isbe.net/grants/html/essa-workshops.htm](http://www.isbe.net/grants/html/essa-workshops.htm).

The deadline to register is April 25.

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## In Brief

### Educator Recognition

- Three Illinois superintendents were selected as winners of the National School Public Relations Association's **2015-16 Superintendents to Watch program**. The [program](#) recognizes superintendents with fewer than five years of experience as a superintendent who use communication technology in innovative and effective ways. Congratulations to Illinois' honorees:
  - PJ Caposey of Meridian CUSD 223
  - Dr. Ehren Jarrett, Rockford Public School District 205
  - Dr. Michael Lubelfeld, Deerfield Public Schools District 109
- John Reid of Carlinville is one of 14 teachers nationwide who has received a **2016 Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Award**. Award recipients each receive \$10,000 and are showcased, along with the former students they inspired, on a [website](#) dedicated to inspirational teachers. Read more about John's career [here](#). Congratulations, John!

### 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](#).

### Upcoming Events

- West 40 Intermediate Service Center 2 is hosting the **Midwest Summit for Learning: Connecting Communities of Innovation** conference on April 25 at Hamburger University in Oak Brook. The

event will feature Apple Distinguished Educators and is intended for technology directors/coordinators, instructional directors/coordinators, and teachers. For more information and to register, visit <http://midwestsummitforlearning.sched.org/>.

- The **Illinois Network of Charter Schools** is hosting a free webinar series called "Origin Stories" that explores why educators and community leaders start charter schools, what are the challenges, what impact are they making in children's lives, and so on. The first webinar in the series will take place at 4 p.m. April 13 with an interview of Namaste Charter School founders Allison Slade and Allison Jack about why these former teachers created the school. Slade is a founder and executive director of the school and Jack is a founding board member. To register, visit <http://tinyurl.com/WebinarApr13>.

### 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](http://www.getedfunding.com/c/index.web?s@I2DZMu gPAAkuo).

## 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](http://www.ialas.org).

## 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@kidsexplorerclub.com](mailto:beatrice@kidsexplorerclub.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](http://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](http://www.latinoartbeat.com) or contact [latinoartbeat@hotmail.com](mailto:latinoartbeat@hotmail.com).

## 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>.