



Weekly Message

May 9, 2017

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

I have spent a lot of time reflecting on the role that teachers have played in my life. I think everyone can point to a teacher who made a difference for them, whether it was supporting them through a difficult period or pushing them to consider new perspectives and ideas. I believe we should show appreciation for our teachers every week, but this week presents us with a special opportunity to thank them for motivating, challenging, and inspiring our students across the continuum of early childhood through postsecondary education and career.

We expect a lot from our teachers. In addition to helping our students gain knowledge and skills in math, science, reading, writing, and the like, teachers care for the development of the whole child and students' social and emotional growth. They introduce our students to new concepts while comforting and encouraging them as they tackle obstacles. We ask our educators to connect with and meet the unique needs of each student, and entrust them with the responsibility of helping children grow into confident young people. Our teachers are superheroes! It is important that they have the tools and resources they need to meet our expectations, including time to collaborate and learn from each other.

Table of Contents

Every Student Succeeds Act.....	3
Computer Banc Pilot Program	4
U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Program.....	4
Title Grant Administration	4
Nutrition Programs.....	4
Funding & Disbursements.....	5
Grant Accountability Transparency Act.....	8
U.S. Presidential Scholars Program	10
Charter Schools.....	10
In Brief.....	10



ISBE is committed to enhancing opportunities for teacher leadership and professional learning. Teachers provided critical insight as we developed Illinois' ESSA State Plan. ISBE pledged to expand resources for teachers on topics ranging from the principles of Universal Design for Learning, differentiated instruction, and data and assessment literacy, to family and community engagement, social and emotional learning, and culturally

sensitive and responsive teaching. Our ESSA State Plan includes competitive grant programs to support practice-focused research projects and innovative fieldwork partnerships between districts and higher education institutions. ISBE will continue promoting the Ed Leaders Network, an online, on-demand,

professional learning community, to connect teacher leaders across districts. IL-EMPOWER leverages teacher leadership and educators' own growth and expertise as the critical drivers of school improvement.

How are you as district leaders supporting your teachers? Just as we work to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for all of our students, we must make sure our educators feel valued and cared for. I know that many of you have invested in teacher wellness and have worked hard to provide teachers with meaningful professional learning opportunities. Thank you for your efforts to nurture healthier, happier teachers.

We are facing a narrowing pipeline. What will it take to get students excited about the teaching profession and build the next generation of teachers? ISBE is dedicated to boosting teacher recruitment and retention in Illinois. In the fiscal year 2018 Budget, the State Board recommended funding for mentoring opportunities for new teachers, as well as an appropriation for a diverse educator recruitment and mentoring program that assists students in middle and high school in taking appropriate coursework and exploring the teaching field. ISBE has also given specific attention to addressing the shortage of agriculture science teachers in Illinois through the Growing Agriculture Science Teachers grant program, which provides incentive funding to agriculture science teacher education programs to recruit teacher candidates, to improve retention by providing support to new teachers in their first five years of service, and to enhance the field-based experiences of teacher candidates.

Now is a great time to honor and recognize those leaders who have made significant contributions to your schools and communities. We are just about one month away from the deadline for nominations for the 2017-18 Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year Program. This year's program has seven nomination categories: classroom teacher; school administrator/principal; student support personnel (Licensed); educational service personnel (Unlicensed); school board member/community volunteer; team; and early career educator. The nomination packet is available [here](#). Learn more about Those Who Excel at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Those-who-excel.aspx>.

The [National Education Association](#) and the [National PTA](#) both offer resources and ideas for how to #ThankATeacher this week. We have seen on social media all of the creative ways your communities are celebrating teachers for #TeacherAppreciationWeek. Please continue to share your posts and photos with us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)!

We are all the result of the hard work and commitment of teachers. Teachers motivate and inspire students to strengthen our communities and our state. Thank you for all you do, Illinois teachers!

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>.

- **ISBE Celebrates Teacher Appreciation Week** – May 8-12
- **National School Nurse Day** – May 10
- **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
- **ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day** – May 29
- **Deadline to submit FY 2018 Child Find Public Awareness Project RFP** – May 30
- **Deadline to submit FY 2018 Early CHOICES RFP** – May 30
- **Deadline to submit FY 2018 STARNET RFP** – May 30
- **Deadline to submit final grant amendments for projects ending June 30** – May 31
- **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)
- **Illinois State Board of Education meeting** – June 14
- **Lead, Focus, Connect Conference** – June 19 (educationregistration.org/index.php/iarss)
- **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 for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)
- **Deadline to submit Annual Pupil Transportation Reimbursement claim** – Aug. 15

Every Student Succeeds Act

Updated ESSA State Plan for Illinois

ISBE submitted the ESSA State Plan for Illinois to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) on April 1, 2017. On April 10, ED identified a section of the plan that it considered incomplete. This section included measurements of interim progress for academic attainment, graduation rate, and English Learner proficiency.

In the plan submitted on April 1, 2017, ISBE stated that it intends to develop measurements of interim progress based on three-year baseline data and that this data is currently unavailable due to not having three years of data from which to determine a baseline for academic attainment, graduation rate, and English Learner proficiency.

In order for the plan to be reviewed in May 2017, ISBE provided measurements of interim progress by using the 15-year time line recommended by stakeholders for academic attainment based upon 2016 PARCC data in grades 3-12; four-year, five-year, and six-year graduation rates; and English Learner proficiency on ACCESS.

The ESSA State Plan for Illinois that contains this information was submitted to ED on May 2, 2017. In this updated version of the plan, ISBE states that the measures of interim progress for academic attainment, graduation rate, and English Learner proficiency will be revisited once three-year composite averages are available for the data.

On May 4, 2017, ED verified that the ESSA State Plan for Illinois is complete and it will undergo peer review May 22-24, 2017.

The updated plan is available [here](#). Please send any questions to essa@isbe.net.

Computer Banc Pilot Program

2,000 Computers Available for 2017-18 School Year

Computer Banc is teaming up this spring with Illinois lawmakers and state officials and agencies to help improve children’s access to digital literacy. The pilot program repurposed surplus government computers to provide children access to low cost learning tools at school and at home. Two-thousand \$85 computers are available for the 2017-18 school year for Illinois schools for Aug. 1 delivery. Additional computers will be available on a monthly basis on the first of each subsequent month.

All of the computers are warranted for one full year. The computers provide online web browser access featuring Google Chrome for classroom learning; Testnav functionality for required assessment testing; and offline curriculum featuring more than 1,500 eBooks, Illinois State Museum modules, and early learning educational games.

For more information, visit www.ComputerBanc.org, or contact David Fowler, executive director, via email at director@computerbanc.org or by phone at (217) 528-9506.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Program

2017 Green Ribbon Awardees

Maercker Intermediate School in Westmont and Chiaravalle Montessori School in Evanston have been named 2017 Green Ribbon schools.

Illinois was one of 28 states to submit candidates for this year’s program. A total of 45 schools, nine districts, and nine postsecondary institutions from across the country are being honored for their innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and

utility costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure effective sustainability education.

The awardees include 39 public schools, including five magnet schools and one charter school, as well as six nonpublic schools. Forty-four percent of the 2017 honorees serve a disadvantaged student body and 14 percent are rural.

For more information on the Green Ribbon Schools program, visit www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/index.html.

Title Grant Administration

FY 2018 Every Student Succeeds Act Technical Assistance Workshops

ISBE staff invites you to attend a one-day technical assistance workshop being offered throughout the state. This will be the first year of ESSA implementation in the state and will be the focus of the workshop. This summer, the ISBE Title Grant Administration staff will provide information on the application and programmatic changes. Please note, the pre-session for new directors is not available due to the new implementation.

There is no fee to attend and lunch will be provided. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged. Registration deadline is Monday, **June 12**.

For workshop dates, locations, and registration instructions, please visit www.isbe.net/Pages/Title-Grants.aspx.

Nutrition Programs

Pontiac-William Holliday SD Cafeteria Manager Wins ISBE’s School Nutrition Champion Award



Sandra Duniphan, the cafeteria manager for Pontiac-William Holliday School District 105 in Fairview Heights, is the recipient of the Illinois State

Board of Education’s 2017 School Nutrition Champion Award. This is the first year for the award

from the agency’s Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division.

Duniphan was nominated by Julie M. Brown, the district’s superintendent. She wrote in her nominating letter, “Sandra has an excellent relationship with the cafeteria department employees, teachers, parents, and students. I can’t imagine how different life would be in our district without Sandra being a part of it. She truly is one of a kind and goes above and beyond to excel in everything she, and her department, do!”

Brown also praised Duniphan for her versatility (“Not only is Sandra the cafeteria manager, but she also cooks, cashiers, and cleans on a daily basis.”), her professional development efforts, and several awards and contests Sandra has won, including the Gold Award in the Smarter Lunchroom Assessment and the Show Us Your Dairy Spirit Award from the St. Louis District Dairy Council. Brown also cited Duniphan’s enthusiasm to volunteer in her free time and her ability to keep up with rules and regulations to provide food choices that are both healthy and enjoyable.

“To gather feedback and suggestions from students, she has a suggestion box and has met with a student committee to discuss this and review some of the guidelines she has to follow. The menu is always changing, offering favorites, adding new items, and eliminating those that weren’t such a hit with students,” Brown wrote.

The School Nutrition Champion Award was announced on [School Lunch Hero Day](#) (May 5), which is part of School Nutrition Employee Week. A selection committee reviewed nominations received from across the state. Anyone could nominate a school nutrition professional for the award. ISBE’s Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division launched the School Nutrition Champion Award in December 2016. The deadline for nominations was April 3, 2017.

Visit ISBE’s [School Nutrition and Wellness Champion’s page](#) for more recognition and best practices in Illinois.

Update: Physical Fitness Assessment Data Reporting

Starting in the second semester of this school year, public schools began administering physical fitness

assessments using either FitnessGram or the Brockport Physical Fitness Test (for students with disabilities) in the following four areas: Aerobic Capacity (grades 4-12), Flexibility (grades 3-12), Muscular Endurance (grades 3-12), and Muscular Strength (grades 3-12).

Then, by June 30 of each year, districts must ensure the aggregate results of these assessments (number of students meeting Healthy Fitness Zone or Needs Improvement by gender and grade for 5, 7, and 10 only) are reported electronically to ISBE through the *Student Health Data: Physical Fitness* system, which is now available in IWAS. Please download the *User Guide* at www.isbe.net/Documents/PhysicalFitness_IWAS_User_Guide.PDF to learn how to gain access to this system as well as how to enter data.

There is an Illinois-specific template for collecting and tallying student data as well as a Q&A with links to training materials and a snapshot of data to be reported to ISBE under QUICK LINKS at www.isbe.net/EnhancedPhysicalEducation.

Funding & Disbursements

Updated Transportation Manuals – Special Populations

The Division of Funding and Disbursement Services has recently updated the following two transportation manuals for special populations:

- Infant, Toddlers and Preschool Transportation, which can be accessed at www.isbe.net/Documents/prek_transport.pdf;
- Special Needs Student Transportation, which can be accessed at www.isbe.net/Documents/special_needs_transport.pdf.

These documents have been revised using the latest National Congress for Student Transportation guidelines for best practices in student transportation.

Questions may be directed to Mike Slife at mslife@isbe.net or by phone (217) 782-5256.

2016-17 (FY 2018) Pupil Transportation Claim Reimbursement System Now Available

Please be advised that the Pupil Transportation Claim Reimbursement System (PTCRS) is now available for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to enter claim data for the 2016-17 school year. Please refer to the 2016-17 Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim Instructions (www.isbe.net/Documents/pupil_reimburse_instruct.pdf) for assistance in completing the claim.

Per statute, the Annual Pupil Transportation Reimbursement claim is due to ISBE on or before **Aug. 15**.

If you have questions regarding PTCRS, please contact Mark Morten at mmorten@isbe.net or call (217) 782-5256. If you encounter technical issues with PTCRS in IWAS, please contact the ISBE Call Center at (217) 558-3600 between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

2016-17 Final Public School Calendars

The Final Public School Calendar for the 2016-17 school year is now available via the Public School Calendar system in IWAS. Please complete and submit the Final Calendar to the appropriate Regional Office of Education (ROE)/Intermediate Service Center (ISC) by the last day of school.

A Final Public School Calendar must be submitted and approved prior to filing the 2016-17 claims for General State Aid, Pupil Transportation, and 18-3 Regular Education Orphanage. The document type Final Calendar must be submitted even if the district has previous approval on a document type Amended Calendar. If a document type Amended Calendar is in draft status (i.e., has not been submitted for RCDT Administrator or ROE/ISC for approval), leave it in draft status and proceed entering the Final Calendar.

HELPFUL HINT: The unused proposed emergency days (calendar code XED) that are coded at the end of the school calendar may be removed by correcting the Regular School End Date to the last day of actual school activity. Once the Regular School End Date has been corrected, the calendar codes after that date will be omitted.

Questions that are not addressed in the [Public School Calendar Guidelines](#) or [Final/Proposed Calendar Checkpoints](#) may be directed to the respective

Regional Office of Education, Cook County Intermediate Service Center, or to ISBE Funding and Disbursement Division staff contact Mike Slife at mslife@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256. If you encounter technical issues with the Public School Calendar in IWAS, please contact the ISBE Call Center at (217) 558-3600 between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Updated State & Federal Grant Administration, Fiscal Requirements, and Procedures Manual

The Division of Funding and Disbursement Services has recently updated the State and Federal Grant Administration Policy, Fiscal Requirements, and Procedures manual, which can be accessed at www.isbe.net/Documents/fiscal_procedure_handbk.pdf.

This document has been in revision for the past few months in order to incorporate the new Federal Uniform Guidance under [Title 2 Code of Federal Regulations Part 200](#) that govern the administration of federal awards/grants as well as all state grants per the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA). This document is not intended to supersede individual program specific instructions, rules, or procedures.

Some major topics and changes include:

- Glossary of Acronyms and Terms
- GATA requirements
- Amendments (**Note:** Effective for all fiscal year 2018 grant programs, amendments will be required if scope of a project changes significantly or if the expected expenditures exceed the expenditure variance of 10 percent or \$1,000 per an object total, whichever is greater.)
- Sound Internal Controls, Fraud Policy, and General Procurement Standards
- Time and Effort Reporting
- Detailed Function and Object Descriptors
- Recovery of Grant Funds

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact Kim Lewis (kewis@isbe.net) or Craig Rechner (crechner@isbe.net), grants supervisor in the Division of Funding and Disbursements, at (217) 782-5256.

Deadline for Final FY 2017 State & Federal Grant Amendments and End Date Extensions

Many state and federal grant projects are approaching a June 30 end date for obligating FY 2017 grant funds. All state and federal project end date extension requests and final budget amendments must be received at ISBE no later than 30 calendar days prior to the end date of the project.

As a reminder, please be advised of the following regarding the need for a project end date extension:

- An end date extension past June 30 is NOT needed for regular term staff salaries paid on a 12-month salary schedule.
- An end date extension past June 30 is NOT needed to pay obligations (e.g., purchase order for supplies) incurred June 30 or prior.
- An end date extension past June 30 IS NEEDED for new activities and obligations incurred July 1 or later (e.g., Summer School, Professional Development).

Final amendments for state and federal grants with a project end date of June 30, 2017, must be received by ISBE no later than May 31, 2017. For those grants with a project end date of Aug. 31, 2017, the last day amendments will be accepted is Aug. 1, 2017. However, budget increases for state-funded grant projects must be received by June 30, even if the project end date has been extended. For grant applications in the electronic Grants Management System, the deadline is also referenced on the Program Overview page under “Amendment Due Date.”

Note to Special Education and Education for Employment Cooperative Administrators: Member district amendments need to be submitted to the Cooperative/EFE Administrator in a timely fashion to accommodate a final review for accuracy and approvability before acceptance and approval to ISBE on or before the May 31/Aug. 1 deadline.

Title I Excess Carryover

Federal regulations for Title I require that states limit the amount of funds carried over to a subsequent fiscal year. Only 15 percent of the current year allocation, for those LEAs with less than \$50,000 current year allocation, is allowable. In other words, LEAs must

spend all carryover and 85 percent of the current year allocation. Carryover exceeding 15 percent is considered excess and will be reduced from total funds available.

Reasons for excess carryover:

- a) The LEA has excess carryover in the current year project based on ACTUAL expenditures over a 15-month period (final expenditure report from current year plus first-quarter expenditure report of next year).
- b) The LEA has potential excess carryover into the next year’s project based on unbudgeted funds within the current year application.

There are three options available if you have potential excess carryover:

- 1) Funds can be relinquished. (These funds are used for reallocation to other LEAs.)
- 2) An excess carryover waiver can be requested. A waiver request must be submitted prior to the project end date and instructions can be found at www.isbe.net/Documents/carryover_waiver.pdf. LEAs may only request a waiver once every three years.
- 3) An amendment can be submitted for the total funds available and expenditure of these funds can be completed. Amendments must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the project end date.

Maximum 2017 carryover amounts for LEAs with less than \$50,000 current year allocation, along with information showing whether your LEA has requested a waiver in the last three years, can be found at the link below. If there is an x in any of the last three years, you cannot request a waiver to carry over excess funds into 2018.

Title I Carryover Maximum and Waiver History:

https://www.isbe.net/_layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/Title_I_carryover_15percent.xls.

It is the LEA’s responsibility to be aware of the total funds available and if there is a possibility of excess carryover into the next fiscal year. The LEA should monitor its grant to ensure that all available funds have been budgeted and that funds are being spent so that the maximum carryover amount is not exceeded. Below is a link to a worksheet that has been developed that can help you determine if there could be a potential excess issue.

Title I Carryover Calculation Worksheet:

[https://www.isbe.net/ layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/Title I Carryover_calc_worksheet.xlsx](https://www.isbe.net/layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/Title_I_Carryover_calc_worksheet.xlsx).

ISBE will notify the LEA if it has unbudgeted funds or when it has exceeded carryover, but the LEA should monitor the grant to ensure that if the potential for excess for carryover exists that action is taken before the funds are lost.

Please contact your program consultant for information regarding your Title I program. If you have questions on the Title I excess carryover process, please contact the ISBE Funding and Disbursements Division at (217) 782-5256.

Employer’s TRS Contribution on Federally Funded Salary for Summer Activities

The Teachers’ Retirement System (TRS) requires earnings for summer work to be reported on an accrual basis. Earnings for work performed in June 2017 must be reported on the 2016-17 TRS Annual Report, even if the member is not paid for the June work until July or August. The 2016-17 TRS and THIS contribution rates apply to accrued earnings for work performed in June, regardless of when the June earnings are paid to the teacher.

Earnings for work performed in July and August 2017 must be reported on the 2017-18 TRS Annual Report. The 2017-18 TRS and THIS contribution rates apply to accrued earnings for work performed in July and August, regardless of when the July and August earnings are paid to the teacher.

Several questions from the field regarding what federal TRS rate to use for SUMMER salaries has prompted TRS (trs.illinois.gov/) to instruct LEAs to use the new employer TRS contribution on federally funded salaries that are providing services AFTER the start of the new fiscal year (July 1, 2017). Below are three scenarios and what federal TRS rate to use in each scenario:

1. FY 2017: federally funded staff/teachers that have completed their assignments by June 30, 2017, but being paid after July 1: The CURRENT RATE (FY 2017) applies (38.54 percent).

2. FY 2017: federally funded staff/teachers providing services and being paid after July 1: The NEW RATE (FY 2018) applies (44.61 percent). (Please note that an FY 2017 amendment may be needed in this scenario.)
3. FY 2018: federally funded grant staff: The NEW RATE applies (44.61percent).

More information is available on the TRS website at trs.illinois.gov/employers/payments/contributions.htm.

Further questions can be directed to the TRS Employer Services Division at employers@trs.illinois.gov or (888) 877-0890.

Grant Accountability Transparency Act

Required FY 2018 GATA Grantee Pre-Qualification Process

The grantee pre-qualification registration portal may be accessed directly on the 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 four steps:

1. Authentication (New for FY 2018)

The Grantee Portal can be accessed through the Grantee Links heading on the GATA website. A personal or business email address is required to establish an account. Authentication is required through the Illinois.gov authentication portal. It establishes or verifies the relationship between an individual and the organization they represent. Authentication is performed once for each individual associated with a registration. If your email was not previously associated with the organization that you represent, click the “Create a new account” link below the “Sign in” button. After you have entered the required information, you will receive a confirmation email that will instruct you to click a link to complete the account creation process. For help with the Illinois.gov Authentication Portal, please browse to

www.illinois.gov/sites/accounts/Pages/default.aspx. Additional instructions may also be found at www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/GranteePortalFAQ.aspx.

2. Registration

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. After accessing your entity’s registration information, you must click the “Edit” button found near the top of the screen. This will allow you to correct/confirm the listed information and select the appropriate organization type for your entity.

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 (NOTE: school districts, special education joint agreements, and education for employment consortiums should select “School District”);
- Secretary of State ID (NOTE: the following types of organizations have been deemed EXEMPT from this requirement: school districts, colleges, universities, Regional Offices of Education, special education joint

agreements, and education for employment consortiums);

- Organization name; and
- Address.

3. Grantee Pre-qualification

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

- Be registered in the GATA Grantee Portal system as described above;
- Have a valid DUNS number (click [HERE](#) to view instructions on obtaining a DUNS number);
- Have a current SAM.gov account (click [HERE](#) to view instructions on obtaining a SAM Cage Code);
- Not be on the Federal Excluded Parties List (click [HERE](#) to verify utilizing the Quick Search);
- Be in Good Standing with the Illinois Secretary of State, as applicable) (click [HERE](#) to verify). (NOTE: the following types of organizations have been deemed EXEMPT from this requirement: school districts, colleges, universities, Regional Offices of Education, special education joint agreements, and education for employment consortiums.);
- Not be on the Illinois Stop Payment list; and
- Not be on the Department of Healthcare and Family Services Provider Sanctions list.

Pre-qualification status will be verified after Grantee Registration is submitted and nightly thereafter. If an entity has a pre-qualification issue, the specific issue and remediation support is provided through the Grantee Portal. Entities on the Federal Excluded Parties List are not eligible to do business with the State of Illinois.

4. 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 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 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. Again, **completion of these four steps is required prior to making application for funding for FY 2018.**

Entities must also complete a programmatic risk assessment for each grant award in FY 2018. **The programmatic risk assessment will be included in each electronic grant application through ISBE. Paper grant applicants will be directed to the IWAS system once applications have been received.**

The ISBE “GATA Grantee Status Report” provides updated status information for all ISBE grantees and can be found under “Resources” on the left side of the [ISBE GATA website](#). Please direct any questions you might have related to the GATA registration and pre-qualification process to GATA@isbe.net or (217) 782-5630.

U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

Illinois Semifinalists Announced for 2017 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

Twenty-five Illinois students have been named as semifinalists in the 2017 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

The program was established in 1964 to recognize and honor some of the country’s most distinguished graduating seniors. In 1979, the program was expanded to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional scholarship and talent in the visual, creative, and performing arts. In 2015, the program was expanded once more to recognize students who show ability and accomplishment in career and technical fields. Up to 161 students annually are selected to become U.S.

Presidential Scholars, one of the nation’s highest honors for high school students.

A total of 723 semifinalists has been selected from across the country. These semifinalists form the pool from which the 2017 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be chosen.

For a complete list of semifinalists, go to <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/psp/2017/semifinalists.pdf>.

Charter Schools

Spring Charter Startup Workshop

The Illinois Network of Charter Schools is hosting a free Spring Charter Startup Workshop on May 20 to explore how you can bring change to education in your community through the creation of a charter public school. The workshop will take place in Lake County at Prairie Crossing Charter School (1531 Jones Point Road, Grayslake, IL 60030) from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Charter public schools offer an opportunity for educators and community leaders to break the mold and re-imagine school in order to provide public school options that effectively serve children's diverse learning styles, strengths, and needs.

To learn more and register, please visit www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-charter-startup-workshop-tickets-34142811067. Contact Anne with questions at alevybrown@incschools.org.

In Brief

Funding Opportunities

- Looking for funding to improve the healthy eating and physical activity opportunities at your school? Learn more at [Fuel Up to Play 60](#). Up to \$44,000 per year is available to qualified K-12 schools enrolled in Fuel Up to Play 60 to jumpstart healthy changes. The deadline to apply is June 14.
- **AdVenture Capital’s Fuel Up for Summer Challenge** is now live on AdCapYOUth.org. Students can submit their BIG ideas to win \$1,000

to implement a project that increases awareness of food insecurity and promotes opportunities to connect to summer feeding programs. The deadline to submit project ideas is May 19.

Upcoming Events

- The Tourette Syndrome Camp Organization will host the 24th **Annual Tourette Syndrome Camp USA** from June 25 – July 1 at YMCA Camp Duncan in Ingleside. For more information, visit www.tourettecamp.com.

Educator Opportunities

- **Teach Plus** is looking for excellent teachers for the [Illinois Teaching Policy Fellowship](#). Teachers will learn about policy issues that affect them and their students, practice advocacy skills such as writing op-eds or meeting with legislators, and work to influence state education policy to ensure that all students receive a great education. Fellows also receive a stipend. If you are an experienced teacher (at least three years classroom experience) who is ready to expand your influence, learn more [here](#).

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!

Educator Recognition

- **Congratulations to Steve Jenkins**, a building trades teacher at Robinson High School, for receiving a 2017 Golden Apple Award by [WTHI-TV](#). Congrats, Mr. Jenkins!

Administrator Recognition

- **Congratulations to Dr. Jimmy Gunnell**, executive director of the AERO Cooperative, who was honored by the Council of Administrators of Special Education with the Harrie Selznick Distinguished Service Award. Congrats, Dr. Gunnell!

District Recognition

- **Congratulations to Township High School District 214, Lindop School District 92, and Blue Ridge School District** for being within the

top 10-ranking winners at the [Center for Digital Education's 2016-17 Digital School Districts Survey Awards](#). Great job!

Educator Resources

- [WE Schools](#) provides helpful resources for educators and exclusive learning opportunities for students by preparing them with the life skills to better the world and empowering them to forge their own paths to success. For more information, please contact Francie.Richards@we.org.

ISBE Employment Opportunities

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