



# Weekly Message

**May 24, 2016**

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

Hello,

State agencies, including the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), are in the process of implementing the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA). The law includes a new grant management system that is more performance-focused to improve outcomes and overall accountability, transparency, and efficiency across state government and the grantee community. This new system will significantly change ISBE's grant-making process for school districts and other grantees.

A brief overview of GATA and how it will affect your districts for fiscal year 2017 is included in the newsletter below after the Dates and Deadlines section. ISBE will also be sending additional details and updates in the weeks to come as more information becomes available. I encourage you to take the time to read these updates and make sure your staff members are aware of the new regulations in preparation for the upcoming school year. A new ISBE webpage with resources, training materials, and other information about GATA is also coming soon.

I'd also like to share the exciting news that eight Illinois school districts have been named among the Best Communities for Music Education (BCME) by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation. The BCME program recognizes and celebrates districts for their support and commitment to music education. A total of 476 school districts nationwide are being recognized. Illinois' BCME honorees are:

- Indian Prairie School District 204 (Aurora)
- Northbrook School District 28
- Prospect Heights School District 23
- Batavia Public School District 101
- Plano Community Unit School District 88
- Aptakisic-Tripp School District 102 (Buffalo Grove)
- Community Consolidated School District 46 (Grayslake)
- Hawthorn CCSD 73 (Vernon Hills)

### Table of Contents

Grant Accountability & Transparency Act...	3
Professional Development.....	4
Center for Educator Effectiveness.....	4
Quality School Options.....	4
Nutrition and Wellness Programs .....	5
Data Analysis .....	5
School Health Issues.....	6
System of Support & District Intervention ..	6
School Business Services .....	6
College and Career Readiness .....	7
English Language Learning.....	7
Illinois Science Assessment.....	7
Funding and Disbursements .....	7
Update on Criminal Background Checks ....	8
In Brief .....	9

Additionally, 11 individual Illinois schools are among the 118 schools that received the NAMM Foundation's SupportMusic Merit Award, which honors schools that show strong support for music education. These schools are:

- Heyworth Elementary School
- LeRoy Elementary School
- Morton High School
- Loyola Academy (Wilmette)
- Richland County Middle School (Olney)
- Charles R. Darwin Elementary (Chicago)
- Mary Lyon Elementary School (Chicago)
- Henry Marlowe Middle School (Lake in the Hills)
- Traughber Junior High School (Oswego)
- Zion-Benton Township High School (Zion)
- Bloom Trail High School (Chicago Heights)

Congratulations to these districts and schools for their outstanding commitment to expose all students to the benefits of music education. Music is one of the curricular areas addressed in Illinois' new fine arts standards to be implemented during the 2017-18 school year, and the State Board is proud to have great local examples of how fine arts opportunities strengthen school curricula.

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>.

- **Deadline to submit comments on ISBE's application for federal fiscal years 2015 and 2016 School Improvement Grant (SIG) 1003(g) allocations from the U.S. Department of Education** – May 24 ([www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/sip\\_1003.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/sip_1003.htm))
- **Webinar on guidelines for entering 2016 salary data into Employment Information Systems** – May 25 (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4206849509939692545>)
- **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 for Grant Amendments or End Date Extensions for Projects Ending June 30** – May 31
- **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))
- **Part 30 (Programs for the Preparation of Principals in Illinois), Part 33 (Programs for the Preparation of Superintendents in Illinois) and Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant)** – Public comment ends June 13
- **Deadline to apply for Fuel Up to Play 60 grants** – June 15 ([www.fueluptoplay60.com/funding/general-information](http://www.fueluptoplay60.com/funding/general-information))
- **Procurement in the 21st Century workshop** - June 15-16 (<http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnscheduler.asp/eventlist.asp>)

- **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))
- **“Lead, Focus, Connect: Classrooms in Action Summer Expedition” conference** – June 21-22 ([www.isbe.net/common\\_core/htmls/workshops.htm#new](http://www.isbe.net/common_core/htmls/workshops.htm#new))
- **Deadline to apply for initial registration as a nonpublic school** – June 25 ([www.isbe.net/nonpublic/pdf/87-01\\_np\\_entity.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/nonpublic/pdf/87-01_np_entity.pdf))
- **Deadline to submit data in the Student Health - Vision system** – June 30
- **Deadline to submit all student dental data to ISBE** – 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))
- **Deadline to submit the Prevention Initiative 0-3 eGrant** – June 30
- **Deadline to submit the Preschool for All 3-5 eGrant** – June 30
- **Deadline to submit 2016-17 Migrant Education Program applications** – July 1 ([www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/migrant.htm](http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/migrant.htm))
- **ISBE offices closed for Independence Day** – July 4
- **Deadline to submit responses to the electronic Charter Schools Program – QSO –Request for Proposals** – July 5 ([www.isbe.net/charter/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/charter/default.htm))
- **ISBE’s Professional Development Re-Ignite event** – July 27 (<http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/>)
- **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
- **ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day** – Oct. 10
- **Deadline to submit FY 2017 School District Budget/Joint Agreement Forms to ISBE** – Oct. 31 ([www.isbe.net/sfms/budget/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sfms/budget/default.htm))

## **Grant Accountability & Transparency Act**

### **Corrected Notice About New Grant Application and Award Requirements**

The Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) includes development of a new grants management system that will be implemented in all state agencies beginning in fiscal year 2017. This new system will require significant changes to the grant-making process at ISBE and across state government, including the application process for school districts and other grantees.

GATA adopts the federal uniform guidance ([2 CFR 200](#) “super circular”) for all grants and develops supplemental rules for areas not addressed by the federal regulations. The goal is to improve outcomes by becoming more performance-focused while increasing accountability, transparency, and efficiency

across state government and the grantee community through the application of standardized processes.

GATA will primarily apply to “traditional” grants (e.g., Early Childhood, Truant Alternative and Optional Education Program, Title I, and Individuals with Disabilities Act) and Requests for Proposals. It will NOT apply to General State Aid or Mandated Categoricals (e.g., Transportation, Special Education).

One of the new regulations requires grantees to be prequalified prior to receiving an award for fiscal year 2017. Information about the process to follow for prequalification will be available soon on a new grant portal website at [www.grants.illinois.gov](http://www.grants.illinois.gov). Please watch the ISBE site and the GATA site for further instructions as they become available.

The requirements for prequalification include the possession of a Commercial and Government Entity

(CAGE) Code, a System for Award Management (SAM) user account, and a Dun & Bradstreet data universal number system (DUNS) number in order to receive federal funding. If you are uncertain if your district has active numbers, please contact your business office to ensure compliance. You may also register for these numbers at the following websites:

- [www.sam.gov/portal/SAM/#1](http://www.sam.gov/portal/SAM/#1)
- <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>

Please note that there is no fee to register for a CAGE Code.

A new ISBE webpage with further information about GATA, training opportunities, and links to resources will be available soon.

Implementation of GATA across state government will be an evolving process with additional instructions and technological improvements anticipated over the coming months, so your patience is appreciated.

If you have specific questions or need guidance, please contact your program area within the Illinois State Board of Education or contact [GATA@isbe.net](mailto:GATA@isbe.net).

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### **Professional Development**

#### **ISBE to Host Professional Development Re-Ignite Event July 27 in Springfield**

ISBE invites professional development providers to attend its Professional Development Re-Ignite event on July 27 at the Wyndham Springfield City Center.

This free event will focus on the Learning Forward Standards and supports the increasing need for quality professional learning tailored at the state and local level.

The event aims to help participants:

- Develop a deeper understanding of the Learning Forward Standards and their impact on each person's professional role.
- Discuss application strategies and how to apply the standards.
- Identify connections between Learning Forward Standards and state and local efforts.
- Engage in a professional learning network.

Registration is limited and available at

<http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/>. For more information, contact Marci Johnson at (217) 524-4832 or [marjohns@isbe.net](mailto:marjohns@isbe.net).

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### **Center for Educator Effectiveness**

#### **New Partnership for Educator Preparation Group to Guide Data Collection, Reporting**

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is beginning a significant effort to strengthen data collection, sharing, and reporting in order to advance the work of educator preparation programs statewide. To drive this work, the agency is launching a steering committee called the Partnership for Educator Preparation (PEP). PEP is made up of preparation program faculty and school district teachers and administrators with experience and interest in educator preparation. These individuals are providing input and guidance in the design and content of ISBE's revised data collection and reporting system as well as sound improvement and intervention policies and systems.

Interested parties can stay up-to-date with the steering committee's work via the Educator Licensure monthly newsletters (available at [www.isbe.net/licensure/html/higher-education.htm?coll0=open#CollapsiblePanel10](http://www.isbe.net/licensure/html/higher-education.htm?coll0=open#CollapsiblePanel10)).

The steering committee will meet on the following dates:

- June 29, 9 a.m. to noon
- Aug. 31, 9 a.m. to noon

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### **Quality School Options**

#### **Charter Schools Program – QSO – Request for Proposals Now Available**

The electronic Charter Schools Program - QSO - Request for Proposals is now available through IWAS. All responses must be submitted electronically to ISBE by 4 p.m. on July 5.

For more information, please visit [www.isbe.net/charter/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/charter/default.htm).

If you have questions, please send an email to [charter@isbe.net](mailto:charter@isbe.net) or call Charter Schools at (217) 524-4832.

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## Nutrition and Wellness Programs

### Fuel Up to Play 60 Grants Available to Help Schools Make Healthy Changes

Competitive grants of up to \$4,000 are available to K-12 schools enrolled in the Fuel Up to Play 60 program. The grant opportunity is designed to fund activities that lead to lasting change within the school environment to help students get active and fuel their bodies with right foods. To get started, schools will choose one Healthy Eating Play and one Physical Activity Play from the 2016-17 Fuel Up to Play 60 Playbook. Visit [www.fueluptoplay60.com/funding/general-information](http://www.fueluptoplay60.com/funding/general-information) to learn more and to view helpful application tools. The deadline to apply is June 15.

Fuel Up to Play 60 is the in-school nutrition and physical activity program from the National Dairy Council, Midwest Dairy Council, and the National Football League, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The program has helped make wellness a part of the game plan in nearly 73,000 schools across the country.

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## Data Analysis

### Reminder: 2015-16 Dental Data Collection Due June 30

As mandated by Section 5/27-8.1 of the School Code, student dental data must be submitted on or before **June 30**.

Please submit this data through IWAS. For assistance with your submission, please refer to the IWAS Dental User Guide at [www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/dental\\_user\\_guide.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/dental_user_guide.pdf).

The following resources can be found on the Dental Health Webpage: [www.isbe.net/research/htmls/immunization.htm#d](http://www.isbe.net/research/htmls/immunization.htm#d).

Learn more about student dental data collection by checking the **School Dental Examinations Information Sheet** at [www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/dental\\_information.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/dental_information.pdf). Forms acceptable for the 2015-16 school year include the **Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Proof of School Dental Examination Form**, a tool for dentists to record student dental information:

[www.idph.state.il.us/HealthWellness/oralhlth/DentalExamProof10.pdf](http://www.idph.state.il.us/HealthWellness/oralhlth/DentalExamProof10.pdf).

The **IDPH Dental Examination Waiver Form** is for students that are unable to obtain the required dental examination:

[www.idph.state.il.us/forms/ohpm/Dental%20Exam%20Waiver.pdf](http://www.idph.state.il.us/forms/ohpm/Dental%20Exam%20Waiver.pdf).

The **Dental Information-Data Entry Worksheet** is a worksheet to enter your data and double-check your aggregate numbers:

[www.isbe.net/research/xls/dental\\_worksheet.xls](http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/dental_worksheet.xls).

Public school districts may enter the data for each of their schools or approve school IWAS users to enter the data. Regardless of who enters data, it is the responsibility of the nonpublic school administrator/public school district administrator to review the accuracy of entered data and submit the finished data to ISBE by the deadline.

Again, note that **all dental data** must be submitted for all schools serving any combination of kindergarten, grade 2, and/or grade 6 students (enrolled as of May 15) by **June 30**.

If you have any questions on this collection, call (312) 814-7239 or email [mrribeiro@isbe.net](mailto:mrribeiro@isbe.net). For technical assistance with IWAS, please contact the Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

### May 25 Webinar on Guidelines for Entering 2016 Salary Data into EIS

ISBE is hosting a webinar from 1 to 3 p.m. May 25 that will define and review the guidelines for entering 2016 salary data into Employment Information Systems (EIS). This webinar will assist users with entering salary data as well as provide an update on relevant changes in EIS.

Please sign up to reserve your spot at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4206849509939692545>.

A question-and-answer session will be conducted at the end of the webinar. For tutorials explaining data entry with both EIS submissions and batch uploads, please see our EIS Basics Course at [www.isbe.net/eis/html/training.htm](http://www.isbe.net/eis/html/training.htm).

For further EIS assistance, please 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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## **School Health Issues**

### **Online Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Training Ends June 30**

All Illinois schools are pre-enrolled at no cost in online mental health and suicide prevention training available from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). IDPH received federal funding to support a statewide program to train ALL school personnel (middle school through higher education) on how to identify, approach, and refer students showing signs of psychological distress using an innovative online training simulation.

#### Courses for K-12 faculty/staff

1. At-Risk for High School Educators
2. At-Risk for Middle Schools (elementary staff may also find this training useful)
3. Step In, Speak Up! – Supporting LGBTQ Students

#### To take any of the available courses:

1. Go to: <http://illinois.kognito.com/>.
2. Click on “Train Now” under Trainings Available.
3. Create a New Account if you are a new user or sign in if you have an account established. (Users can go back to take the trainings at any point to revisit the materials.)
  - You will be asked to identify the school you represent. Choose “Other” if you work with multiple schools or are a partner agency.
4. Take the brief pre-training survey, followed by the training, which is about 50 minutes and may be completed in multiple sittings.
5. Please also take the post training survey to assist in the program evaluation.
6. Print your certificate of completion.

The training availability ends June 30. If you experience technical difficulties, please email [support@kognito.com](mailto:support@kognito.com).

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## **System of Support & District Intervention**

### **Comments on Federal FY 2015 and FY 2016 School Improvement Grant Application**

ISBE invites comments on its application for federal fiscal years 2015 and 2016 School Improvement Grant (SIG) 1003(g) allocations from the U.S. Department of Education. ISBE’s Division of Statewide System of Support and District Intervention (SSDI) invites comments on the SIG 1003(g) application, which is posted at [www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/sip\\_1003.htm](http://www.isbe.net/sos/htmls/sip_1003.htm). All comments will be included with the Illinois submission to the U.S. Department of Education. Please send comments to A. Rae Clementz at [aclement@isbe.net](mailto:aclement@isbe.net) by May 24.

Please contact System of Support staff by telephone at (217) 524- 4832 with any questions about this request, the Illinois application to the U.S. Department of Education, or any other aspect of the SIG 1003(g) grant program.

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## **School Business Services**

### **Capital Needs Assessment Survey**

[Public Act 93-0489](#) requires the State Board of Education and the Capital Development Board to file a comprehensive assessment report of the capital needs of all school districts with the General Assembly every two years. Jan. 1, 2017, is the due date for the next report.

ISBE asks all districts to complete and submit the Capital Needs Assessment Survey. While the survey will be open until **Sept. 6**, ISBE is sending the survey early to give districts the flexibility of completing the survey prior to summer recess and the startup of school in August/September. Full participation in the assessment will help ensure an accurate portrayal of the capital needs of all districts throughout the state.

On May 12, all district superintendents and regional superintendents were emailed a copy of the Capital Needs Assessment Survey along with a cover letter. If you did not receive a copy of the email, please contact ISBE.

Additional forms, if needed, can be accessed at [www.isbe.net/finance](http://www.isbe.net/finance). Completed forms can be submitted to School Business Services, 100 N. First

St., Springfield, IL, 62777-0001, or to [finance1@isbe.net](mailto:finance1@isbe.net). Contact Christine Kolaz, School Business Services, at (217) 785-8779 with further questions.

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## **College and Career Readiness**

### **Information on Spring 2016 AP Exam Fee and IB Payment Changes**

The U.S. Department of Education expects to award approximately \$28,483,000 in new grants to cover the fees for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs.

Based on the anticipated number of applications and other available information, the department expects this amount to be sufficient to pay all but \$15 of the cost of each AP exam taken by low-income students. This will show on College Board invoices as Option 1: Illinois Fee Reduction credit.

The anticipated 2016 AP Exam Fee breakdown for qualifying low-income students at your school is available at [www.isbe.net/advanced-placement/?col2=open#CollapsiblePanel2](http://www.isbe.net/advanced-placement/?col2=open#CollapsiblePanel2).

Note that funding will be available contingent upon a sufficient appropriation for the AP Test Fee Program.

For fiscal year 2016, AP Test Fee program funds may not be used to pay AP test candidate registration fees on behalf of low-income students. Therefore, the candidate registration fees charged by the International Baccalaureate Organization are also not allowable costs under this program for FY 2016.

For more information, please visit <https://professionals.collegeboard.org/testing/ap/about/fees>.

The IB Fee Payment Program 2015-16 School Reimbursement Form is available at [www.isbe.net/advanced-placement/pdf/20-75-ap-ib-reimb.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/advanced-placement/pdf/20-75-ap-ib-reimb.pdf).

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## **English Language Learning**

### **Migrant Education Program Application**

The Migrant Education Program application for funding for the 2016-17 fall and regular school year

is available on the Division of English Language Learning webpage at [www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/migrant.htm](http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/migrant.htm).

Funding is available under Title I, Part C, of the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act for supplemental academic and support services for qualifying migrant children and youth. Applications must be submitted no later than **July 1**.

Children ages 0-21 who have not graduated from high school may be eligible for the program if they have moved within the past three years across state or school district lines with a parent or guardian seeking temporary or seasonal work in agricultural production, fishing, or food processing industries. Youth who move to obtain this work on their own may also be eligible.

A certified recruiter must document that children qualify as migrant students. ISBE can assist districts with this process. For more information, contact Beth Robinson at (312) 814-3519 or [berobins@isbe.net](mailto:berobins@isbe.net).

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## **Illinois Science Assessment**

### **FAQ Document for Parents Available Online to Help Answer ISA Questions**

A new frequently asked questions document is now available to help districts give parents more information about the new Illinois Science Assessment and the state's science standards.

The FAQ is posted on ISBE's Hot Topics page at [www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/isa/isa-faq-parents.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/isa/isa-faq-parents.pdf).

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## **Funding and Disbursements**

### **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 2016 must be reported on the 2015-16 TRS Annual Report, even if the member is not paid for the June work until July or August. The 2015-16 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 2016 must be reported on the 2016-17 TRS Annual Report. The 2016-17 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.

Based on several questions from the field regarding what federal TRS rate to use for SUMMER salaries, the Teachers' Retirement System ([trs.illinois.gov/](http://trs.illinois.gov/)) has instructed local educational agencies 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, 2016). Below are three scenarios and what federal TRS rate to use in each scenario:

1. FY 2016: federally funded staff/teachers that have completed their assignments by June 30, 2016, but being paid after July 1: The CURRENT RATE (FY 2016) applies (36.06 percent).
2. FY 2016: federally funded staff/teachers providing services and being paid after July 1: The NEW RATE (FY 2017) applies (38.54 percent). (Please note that an FY 2016 amendment may be needed in this scenario.)
3. FY 2017: federally funded grant staff: The NEW RATE applies (38.54 percent).

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

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

### **Deadline for Final FY 2016 State & Federal Grant Amendments & End Date Extensions**

Many state and federal grant projects are approaching a June 30 end date for obligating fiscal year 2016 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, 2016, must be received by ISBE no later than May 31, 2016. For those grants with a project end date of Aug. 31, 2016, the last day amendments will be accepted is Aug. 1, 2016. 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 (eGMS), 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 timely to accommodate a final review for accuracy and approvability before acceptance and approval to ISBE on or before the May 31/Aug. 1 deadline.

Questions regarding this information can be directed to Funding and Disbursements at (217) 782-5256.

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### **Update on Criminal Background Checks**

#### **Districts Urged to Register for CHIRP Web Portal for Criminal History Records**

In an effort to reduce costs and improve efficiency, the Illinois State Police (ISP) Bureau of Identification will soon be unable to print and mail criminal history responses to districts and other users.

The ISP currently offers the Criminal History Information Response Process (CHIRP) web portal to registered users, which provides electronic responses. The website gives customers unlimited access to electronic criminal history record responses during

the life span of the response. Please register and begin utilizing CHIRP as soon as possible in order to avoid any future disruption in the delivery of responses.

CHIRP is available at <https://chirp.isp.state.il.us/CHIRP/login.action>. The troubleshooting guide may be requested from the Bureau of Identification Customer Support Unit. All IT-related support questions should be directed to your agency's help desk prior to contacting the ISP Customer Support.

If you have questions about the CHIRP website, contact the Customer Support unit at [BOI\\_Customer\\_Support@isp.state.il.us](mailto:BOI_Customer_Support@isp.state.il.us).

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## In Brief

### Student Recognition

- **Tremont High School's Roboteers Team 2481** won first place in the [FIRST \(For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology\) Robotics Competition](#) in St. Louis. More than 20,000 students from around the globe participated in the FIRST Championship events, and Tremont students were part of an alliance of four teams to be named world champions. Congratulations, Roboteers!

### Upcoming Events

- May is **Better Hearing and Speech Month** and the theme for 2016 is "Communication Takes Care." The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs would like to help raise awareness about the importance of face-to-face communication and encourage the public to make time for device-free interaction when possible. For more information and resources, visit [www.asha.org/bhsm/](http://www.asha.org/bhsm/).

### Professional Development

- Educators and administrators are invited to attend the **Underserved Gifted Populations Summit** on Oct. 15 in Evanston. The summit aims to help participants understand and identify gifted students and to create appropriate programs to achieve equity in education. For more details, go to [www.iagcgifted.org/images/stories/pdf/2016-Oct-](http://www.iagcgifted.org/images/stories/pdf/2016-Oct-)

[15-Underserved-Summit.pdf](#). Attendees will receive six professional development hours. Early bird registration ends June 1. To register, visit <https://ctdnorthwestern.wufoo.com/forms/underserved-populations-summit/>.

- Join **Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago** (CRFC) and **Mikva Challenge** on July 26-27 in Chicago for Empowered Civics, a two-day professional development institute designed to support Illinois high school teachers, schools, districts, and regions in fulfilling the new civics course requirement. The event includes two days of professional development; classroom materials for use in civics, government, law, and current event classes; and free local follow-up professional development and multi-school student programs during 2016-17. Registration is \$100, and discounts and scholarships are available. More details and registration are available at [www.crfc.org/Empowered%20Civics](http://www.crfc.org/Empowered%20Civics).
- Registration is open for the **2016 Summer School Nurse Emergency Care (SNEC) courses**. SNEC will take place in the following cities: Elgin, Joliet, Marion, Oak Brook (NOTE: registration has filled for this class and a waiting list is in place), Peoria, Rockford, Skokie (NOTE: registration has filled for this class and a waiting list is in place), and Springfield. The three-day course is open to all registered nurses in Illinois and is designed to enhance the assessment, triaging, and treatment skills of the school nurse when confronted with the acutely ill or injured student or staff member. The course registration fee is \$130. Register online at [www.luc.edu/sneccourses](http://www.luc.edu/sneccourses). Contact Ramona Rendon at [rrendon@luc.edu](mailto:rrendon@luc.edu) or Evelyn Lyons at [evelyn.lyons@illinois.gov](mailto:evelyn.lyons@illinois.gov) with questions.
- Lewis University, in partnership with the Illinois Association of School Nurses, is offering a two-day **workshop for registered nurses working in schools**. It will present an overview of the legalities of working in schools, nursing responsibilities, overview of special education processes, preparation for emergencies and disaster, application of the nursing process in a school setting, state and national standards of school nursing, guidelines for running a school health offices, and a month-by-month overview of school health services. It is designed for nurses who do not hold a Professional Educator License endorsed in school nursing. The workshop will be held in Springfield on June 15-16

([www.lewisu.edu/rn-working-in-schools-springfield/index.htm](http://www.lewisu.edu/rn-working-in-schools-springfield/index.htm)) and in Oak Brook on Aug. 1-2 ([www.lewisu.edu/rn-working-in-schools](http://www.lewisu.edu/rn-working-in-schools)).

### 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” or “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>.