



Weekly Message

June 6, 2017

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

As we close out the school year, I want to express my appreciation for all the ways educators have made students and families their first priority during a challenging year in Illinois. The budget issues have put tremendous pressure on many families across the state. You have found ways to care for and support students as other resources they depend on have disappeared. Thank you!

As you know, we have strong civil rights protections -- beyond your thoughtful support, -- for students in Illinois. We heard from those in and around schools during our ESSA State Plan meetings that it is critical to help schools create and maintain a safe, caring, inclusive, and responsive school climate so all children in the state can reach their full potential. Our State Board's goals

affirm that every child in Illinois deserves to participate in an education system wherein every school offers a safe and healthy learning environment for all students. Figuring out how to know each child well, understanding what their unique gifts and talents are, and ensuring that they are fully prepared for success after they leave our care is challenging work. It is important that we as educators create opportunities to maximize personalization and to ensure each student's full participation in school.

Each child enters school with strengths and challenges. Some students have experienced trauma. Some students come from low-income backgrounds. Some students experience a stable home and others do not. Some students struggle academically and others do not. Regardless of all differences in background and identity, each and every student deserves to both be and feel safe in school. Our charge is to care for and fully prepare every student we serve. There is no room for exclusionary policy or practices in Illinois schools. Bullying and targeting by students and adults of anyone in school is unacceptable behavior. Our public schools are the places where we learn how to understand and create community with those who are different than ourselves.

Cities across the state will be celebrating LGBTQ Pride Month during June. This month provides us with a chance to affirm our commitment to ensuring that all school environments are inclusive and welcoming for all students as we recognize the diverse lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning communities across Illinois.

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LGBTQ youth and youth perceived as LGBTQ are disproportionately bullied; in turn, this means that they are more likely to disengage, skip school, and struggle with mental health issues. ISBE believes that quality education nurtures each student as a whole child, recognizing and strengthening their connections between social, emotional, physical, and cognitive health. You will find a variety of resources supporting the health and safety of LGBTQ students and ALL students on our [Climate and Culture](#) web pages, including resources developed by Illinois districts and schools:

- [Anti-Bias and Anti-Hate](#)
- [Bullying Prevention](#)
- [School Climate](#)
- [School Health Issues](#)
- [Social and Emotional Learning](#)
- [Student and Family Resources](#)

In addition, a sizeable percentage of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ. Visit our [Homeless Education](#) page to find materials to support students experiencing homelessness.

The work to ensure that all students and staff feel safe, valued, and well cared for is an ongoing process. Thank you for recognizing the diverse strengths and needs of your students and staff. Making safe and healthy schools a priority is a leadership opportunity for all of us. Empathy and compassion can help us create schools that nurture all students, help all students thrive, strengthen our communities, and maximize the potential of everyone who lives in our state.

Tony

Upcoming ISBE Dates and Deadlines

Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings, and deadlines. For questions, call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663 or (217) 782-4321 or visit the agency's official website at <http://www.isbe.net>.

- **Deadline to 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 (www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx)
- **Deadline to submit IL-EMPOWER RFA** – June 15 (www.isbe.net/Pages/Request-for-Proposals.aspx)
- **Lead, Focus, Connect Conference** – June 19 (<http://iarss.org/lead-focus-connect/>)
- **Deadline to submit data in the Student Health Data Vision and Dental** – June 30
- **Deadline to submit SY 2017-18 CEP documentation** – June 30
- **Deadline to submit SY 2016-17 E-Report Card Data Form 86-43** – June 30
- **Deadline to submit FY 2018 Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP) Continuing Application** – June 30 (www.isbe.net/Pages/Special-Education-Alternative-Learning-Opportunities-Programs.aspx)
- **Deadline to submit Early Childhood Continuation applications in IWAS** – June 30
- **Deadline to submit Charter School Programs Cohort III RFP Letter of Intent** – July 1
- **ISBE Offices Closed for Independence Day** – July 4

- **2017 Special Education Directors Conference** – July 19-21 (www.isbe.net/Pages/SpecialEducationDirectorConference.aspx)
- **School Nutrition Programs Back to School Conference** – Aug. 2-3 (www.isbe.net/Pages/SNPB2S.aspx)
- **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
- **Illinois State Board of Education meeting** – Aug. 16 (www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx)
- **ISBE offices closed for Labor Day** – Sept. 4
- **Deadline to submit FY 2018 School District Budget/Joint Agreement Forms** – Oct. 31

Assessment and Accountability

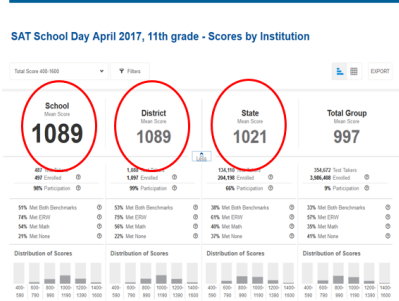
SAT Update: Understanding Released Scores

The following information is regarding the data available to districts in the College Board K-12 Reporting Portal related to the ISBE Sponsored SAT School Day Administration on April 5, 2017.

- Individual student scores are finalized and are official scores.
- All aggregate school and district data is **preliminary** until ISBE has released the final data via the Illinois Report Card in October.
- The data in the portal does not include students who canceled their scores with the College Board; therefore, those students are not included in the aggregate data. Their data will be included in the official ISBE accountability data released in October.
- The aggregate school, district, and state data in the portal are unofficial and will not be the same data that will appear in the Illinois Report Card.
- The purpose of the data is to give schools and districts preliminary results to support curriculum work, intervention strategies, and student support programming for the upcoming school year.
- The data should **NOT** be used for school, district, or state comparisons.

ISBE Sponsored SAT School Day – April 5th Results

- **ALL district, school and state level scores are PRELIMINARY and not connected with official accountability results.**
- **ALL district, school and state level scores are not a complete capture of all accountability level data and should NOT be used for this analysis.**



Upcoming Illinois Science Assessment Corrections Process Webinar

A live webinar will be held from 3-4 p.m. on June 8 to review the data corrections process for the Illinois Science Assessment. To register, please visit <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7008691019272591618>. The webinar will be recorded and posted to the [ISA webpage](#) for those unable to attend.

Title Grant Administration

FY 2018 ESSA Technical Assistance Workshops Postponed

The fiscal year 2018 ESSA Technical Assistance Workshops have been postponed due to complications and challenges in aligning the application with ESSA. ISBE’s Title Grants Administration Division apologizes for the inconvenience. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to [contact your ISBE principal consultant](#).

Summer Conference

Reminder: ‘Lead, Focus, Connect’ on June 19

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

Presenters from ISBE, ROEs/ISCs, and state organizations will provide meaningful and pertinent information about IL-EMPOWER, ESSA, using inquiry to teach science and social science, family engagement, licensure, digital learning resources, and many more topics.

Five “Cool Schools” will be featured at this year’s event. The schools, nominated by ROE and ISC staff, were chosen because they offer innovative programs. Representatives from the schools will be present to provide information, discuss opportunities and challenges, and answer questions about their activities.

All teachers and administrators are encouraged to attend. The cost is \$75 per participant, lunch included. A \$10 per person discount automatically applies to groups of five or more. A [block of rooms](#) is available at the Wyndham at the conference rate of \$99 per room. To register, please visit <http://iarss.org/lead-focus-connect/>.

Nutrition Programs

Reminder: CEP Enrollment Deadline Set for June 30

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) provides schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program and participate in or are initiating a School Breakfast Program for the 2017-18 school year with an alternative method for counting and claiming student meals in high-poverty Local Education Agencies (LEAs).

LEAs electing to participate in CEP agree to serve all students lunches AND breakfasts at no charge for four successive school years. Those that wish to participate in CEP for SY 2017-18 must have the CEP Agreement, CEP Participation Listing, and supporting documentation to ISBE’s Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division no later than June 30, 2017.

Enrollment and identified student data must be as of April 3, 2017. (April 1, 2017, is on a weekend.) Evaluation worksheets are also available so that you can determine if CEP is the right choice for your schools. [Complete information is available online](#). If you have any questions regarding CEP, please contact Roxanne Ramage (rramage@isbe.net) at (800) 545-7892.

Early Childhood Education

FY 2018 Early Childhood Continuation Applications Now Available in IWAS

FY 2018 Early Childhood Continuation Applications are now available in the Electronic Grant Management

System through ISBE Web Application Security (IWAS) for the following programs:

- Early Childhood - Preschool for All 3-5
- Early Childhood - Preschool Expansion
- Early Childhood - Preschool for All Expansion STATE
- Early Childhood - Prevention Initiative 0-3

The application submission deadline is **June 30**. In order to receive a July 1 start date, applications must be submitted to ISBE on or before the June 30 deadline. Technical assistance on items not covered by the instructions link in IWAS may be obtained by contacting your Early Childhood consultant at (217) 524-4835.

Enhanced Physical Education

Physical Education Workshop Scheduled for July 12-13 at Illinois State University

Illinois State University will host a two-day physical education professional development workshop July 12-13 to learn about best practices in PE, current trends, and fitness and activity technology designed for PE.

The ISU PE Tech Camp will include a presentation by Shawn Backs of ISBE’s Nutrition and Wellness Programs. She will speak on “PE Assessment Requirements and Data Reporting.”

Also featured will be Sarah Chusid of the Illinois Public Health Institute/Illinois Alliance to Prevent Obesity. She will share updates on the latest legislative efforts, statewide trainings, and other PE-related initiatives. Visit <http://petechcamp.illinoisstate.edu/register/> for a detailed tentative agenda and additional information.

Both days are set for 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and [registration is underway online](#) for this latest ISU Summer Teacher Workshop. An additional informal interactive forum on “Best Practices: Solutions From the Field” will be held the Wednesday evening (July 12). Early registration through June 15 is \$40. Registration after June 15 is \$60. (Registered educators can bring one administrator with them for no additional charge.)

Charter Schools

Charter School Program Cohort III RFP Intent to Apply Now Available

Design teams interested in applying to the Charter Schools Program Grant Cohort III need to complete the FY 2018 Request for Proposal Intent to Apply. The secure, online Request for Proposals (RFP) will be available in July 2017. Submission of the Intent to Apply is required in order to access the RFP. This grant is for new charter schools and can provide up to \$950,000 over 36 months to cover costs of program design and the initial implementation of the school.

The Intent to Apply form is available at www.isbe.net/Documents/43-48A_FY18_Charter_Intent_to_Apply.pdf.

The deadline to submit Letters of Intent is July 1. For any questions, please contact Claudia Quezada at cquezada@isbe.net or (312) 814-2200.

Update on Charter Schools Program Cohort II Dissemination RFP

The Charter Schools Program – Cohort II Dissemination Request for Proposals has been moved from August 2017 to December 2017. The shift in timeline will allow ISBE to create a more efficient submission process. To be eligible to apply, applicants must have an executed charter agreement with a local school board, obtained charter school certification from ISBE, and have been open for student attendance for three years or longer. Please send an email to charter@isbe.net or call Charter Schools at (312) 814-2220 with any questions.

INCS Hosting Gala to Celebrate 20 Years of Charter Public Schools in Illinois

The Illinois Network of Charter Schools is hosting a gala on Sept. 25 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago to celebrate 20 years of charter public schools' dedication to innovation, transformation, and opportunity for Illinois families. Outstanding community members and students will be recognized at the event, which will include cocktails, dinner, student performances, and a keynote. Contact Rena Dascal, director of development, with questions or to purchase a ticket: rdascal@incschools.org.

Find and Share Ideas at Best Practice Corner

ISBE's Charter Schools' webpage now has a [Best Practice Corner](#), where educators can share innovative ideas and practices occurring at charter schools throughout Illinois. Feel free to use any great ideas that you see on the page and do not hesitate to reach out to charter@isbe.net if you would like to include any practices of your own!

Special Education Services

Revamped IDEA Website Launches

The U.S. Department of Education recently announced the launch of the Office of Special Education Programs' new Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) website. The new site has improved interface, a more intuitive layout, and enhanced social media links. Users will also find it easier to access IDEA laws, regulations, policies, data, reports, and many other resources.

Visit the new site at https://sites.ed.gov/idea/?utm_content&utm_medium=email&utm_name&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term.

Special Education LEA Data Profiles Available

The district special education profiles for Illinois' public school districts have been updated on the ISBE website. A reader can view these profiles to see how a district is performing on indicators critical to special education. The profiles for school years 2014-15 and 2015-16 can be reviewed at <http://webprod1.isbe.net/LEAProfile/SearchCriteria1.aspx>.

Student Performance data (Profile Section Two) is available via the Illinois Report Card, which can be found at www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Report-Card-Data.aspx. This is part of a transition to include this data in the annual Report Card. In the future, having special education data integrated into the Report Card will provide access to all pertinent data within one report.

Grant Accountability Transparency Act

Required FY 2018 GATA Grantee Pre-Qualification Process

All grantees must complete the registration process and be qualified to do business with the State of Illinois.

The grantee pre-qualification registration portal may be accessed directly on the GATA website at www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/default.aspx.

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.

Educator Effectiveness

Administrator Academy Provides Evaluator Retraining

The student growth academy (AA Course #1779) was divided into three separate courses in an effort to ensure accuracy in reporting evaluator retraining completion data. This required changing the course number(s), as well as the title of the courses, to guarantee clarity on which academies educators must take.

The changes are as follows:

AA Course #3000 – Teacher Evaluator Retraining: Student Growth

AA Course #3001 – Administrator Evaluator Retraining: Student Growth

AA Course #3002 – Teacher and Administrator Evaluator Retraining: Student Growth. (Note: This course is for those educators who hold both initial designations. Educators taking this academy must successfully complete the teacher AND principal application/dissemination components.)

Registrants will need to register for one of the three new AA designations depending on which credit they wish to secure. In most cases, the entity awarding credit will be offering all three courses at the same time.

It is absolutely imperative that providers and academy coordinators keep and maintain diligent records to

safeguard educators receiving the proper retraining credit.

Five providers have already recorded and completed workshop data for AA #1779 in IAAMS. ISBE staff has reached out already to those entities in order to move the data from AA 1779 to the appropriate AA 3000, 3001, or 3002 course.

Also, close to 30 workshop sessions are currently scheduled to run prior to June 30 and close to 50 workshops are scheduled after July 1. ISBE staff will be transferring the workshop session “intent to deliver” information from AA 1779 to the respective AA 3000, 3001, and 3002 courses.

Lastly, please note that **no further Administrator Academies will be approved for evaluator re-training**. If you have questions regarding which Administrator Academies are being offered for evaluator retraining, please contact those entities that are approved providers for them (ROEs, ISCs, IPA, IASA, IEA, and IFT).

School Health and Wellness Programs

Save the Date: Illinois-Iowa 2017 School Wellness Conference Nov. 2

The Illinois-Iowa 2017 School Wellness Conference, hosted by Action for Healthy Kids, is set for 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2, in Rock Island. Conference sessions will highlight successful school health and wellness-related outreach in schools, innovative projects that improve the overall health of the school community, and emerging issues impacting school health and wellness.

[Registration is underway online](#) for School Wellness Conference. Early bird registration ends Sept. 15. If interested in sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities, see the Call for Exhibitors on the registration website. For questions, contact Ryan Monroe at rmonroe@actionforhealthykids.org.

Level of Personnel Licensed to Perform Nursing Procedures clarified

Special Education Rule 226.800, item k, and other state laws and regulations prohibit non-nurse school staff from performing activities that require a nurse (or

other qualifying health care professional credential) to perform those duties. Such services include medication administration, tube feedings, tracheal care, catheterizations, and other activities that normally require a medical order for such service to be performed outside of the home. The rule does allow for some of those activities to be performed by non-health care licensed staff if permitted by other existing law (e.g., the Care of Students with Diabetes Act; the Administration of Undesignated Epinephrine or Opioid Antagonist Act; and the State Policy on Administration of Medication to students, which allows school administrators, in addition to nurses, to give medications or allow other school staff to assist students who are experiencing a medical emergency).

None of those services are currently permitted to be delegated to non-nurse or non-administrator in existing law or rule, except as referenced here. Contact ISBE School Health / School Nursing Principal Consultants for further guidance, if needed.

Next Session of Medical Review Course for Non-Certified RNs

Special education rule 226.840 lists the credentials required to administer certain types of evaluations for students in or being considered for special education services. Medical Review is limited to the credentials set forth in Section 226.160 of special education rule. Since July 1, 2016, the requirement is a Registered Nurse (RN) with ISBE Professional Educator License (PEL) endorsed for school nursing, or an RN or Medical Doctor (MD) meeting other requirements if the district demonstrates inability to hire an ISBE-licensed school nurse. No other credentials are recognized as qualified to administer or perform the health evaluation through its conclusion (relevant findings or report of no relevant findings; planning for provision of nursing or health services, if needed; and periodic evaluation of the plan). Other RNs or MDs may conduct portions of the Medical Review, if qualified, and other staff may be assigned specific tasks, such as vision or hearing screening, by the qualified RN. The components of the evaluation are described in Section 226.160.

For those districts that have, on or after July 1, 2016, tried to recruit and hire a certified (PEL) school nurse for a position with IEP duties, and have not been successful, the district or co-op may either 1) apply to

ISBE to use the services of an RN who completed the IEP Review Course but was not employed with the district before July 1, 2016, and has an IEP Designation as verified on ELIS, or 2) apply to ISBE to send an RN with at least a bachelor's degree in nursing, education, or a related field to the ISBE Medical Review Course. Before the application may be approved, all documentation verifying the job posting, recruitment effort, results, and qualifications of the RN candidate must be reviewed by ISBE. See www.isbe.net/Documents/sped-med-review-req-160701.pdf for more information on the specific documents required. Any RN who is either certified (PEL with endorsement in school nursing) or holding an IEP Designation for Special Education Privileges is listed on ELIS with those credentials. Please verify that the RN also holds a license at www.IDFPR.com (license look-up function).

The next session of the Medical Review Course is set to begin Sept. 6 and run through Oct. 17 (six weeks). Please send all required documents via email to JGerdes@isbe.net no later than Aug. 31 for review and approval.

Reimbursement for nursing services: Only RNs with the PEL and endorsement in school nursing may be claimed for special education reimbursement as professional (certified) staff. Other nurses providing special education services may be claimed, if eligible, as Non-Certified Health Aide (NHA). By definition, a staff member claimed as NHA for reimbursement must hold either an RN or LPN license issued by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. Others serving in a health aide or assistant position (paraprofessional), but do not hold a nurse license, may not be claimed as NHA. Refer to ISBE guidance on Claimable FTE and Reimbursement for Nursing Services provided by the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at www.isbe.net/Documents/Nurses_FTE_Clarification.pdf.

In Brief

Student Recognition

- **Congrats to Mira Dedhia** for finishing in third place at [Scripps National Spelling Bee](#). Awesome Job, Mira! And congrats to all other [Illinois finalists](#) who competed in the bee!

Professional Development

- **West 40 Social Science Launch: Gearing up for Implementation** is offering two summer cohorts for K-8 teacher leaders titled “Japanese Lesson Study Launch.” The first cohort runs [June 26-30](#). The second cohort is [August 7-11](#). Both take place from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with an hour for lunch.
- Illinois Classrooms in Action is offering **Virtual Lesson Study Experience**, a professional development opportunity for grades 3-12 math/science educators. The cost is \$45 and the dates are July 17 – Aug. 9. Limited space is available. Please RSVP to math/science content specialist Jeanine Sheppard at jmpsheppard@gmail.com to reserve your spot on the team.
- Lewis University is offering a **Registered Nurses Workshop** on July 24-25 in Oak Brook. “RNs Working in the Schools” is designed for nurses who do not hold ISBE Professional Educator Licenses endorsed in school nursing. Continuing education credit is provided to all participants who attend the entire two days and complete the evaluation. This workshop is provided annually to help ensure that nurses working with school children are as prepared as possible prior to seeking a Professional Educator License in school nursing. To register, visit www.lewisu.edu/rn-working-in-school.
- Loyola University is offering a **School Nurse Emergency Care Course** throughout June and July in eight locations across Illinois. This three-day course is open to all Registered Nurses within Illinois and is designed to enhance the assessment, triaging, and treatment skills of the school nurse when confronted with an acutely ill or injured student. The course registration fee is \$130. To register, visit www.luc.edu/sneccourses.

Funding Opportunities

- **2018 Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant** applications are now being accepted. New for 2018 is an optional preliminary application deadline that will provide the opportunity for your application to be reviewed prior to the final application deadline for common errors that cause

disqualification. See the details, access the application form, watch the tutorial video podcasts, and discover correlations between a natural resources-related field trip and Next Generation Science Standards at www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/GrantsIBFTG.aspx.

- **Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant** applications are now being accepted. New for the program this year are two application options. Option One will allow you to apply for a standard pollinator garden. With this option, the plant species are predetermined. You and the students must decide how best to use these species in your available space. Option Two allows the applicant to determine what type of wildlife habitat to develop. You can view both options at www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/GrantsSHA G.aspx. Tutorial video podcasts are posted on the web page as are correlations to learning standards.

Upcoming Events

- **Valley View School District 365U will be holding a School Safety Conference** in Bolingbrook from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 28. The conference will feature internationally recognized experts on school safety, drug use, and bullying. Space is limited. Online registration is available [here](#).
- **The University of Missouri Thompson Center for Autism’s Annual Autism Conference** will be taking place on Sept. 21-22 in St. Louis, Mo. For more information, visit www.muconf.missouri.edu/autismconf/.

Educator Recognition

- **Congratulations to Mary Catherine Coleman** from Frances W. Parker School in Chicago for receiving the 2017 American Association of School Librarians’ Collaborative School Library Award. Congrats, Ms. Coleman!

District Recognition

- **Congratulations to Belleville Public School District 118** for receiving the National District of Character recognition for 2017 from character.org. Great job!

ISBE Employment Opportunities

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