



Weekly Message

June 7, 2016

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

The following is a note from State Superintendent Smith that was sent to all Illinois administrators last Wednesday.

Dear Illinois educator,

While the future of funding for the state and our schools is uncertain at this moment, I am certain that all of the children in Illinois deserve a quality education. Providing high-quality opportunities to learn and building stronger communities are at the heart of what our school districts do every day in Illinois. Doing this difficult personal and professional work for every student every day is the foundation of healthy neighborhoods. Each of you knows firsthand that finding ways to increase access to quality while increasing equitable outcomes for all students is a relentless endeavor. Thank you for choosing to serve our students and families.

I witnessed wonderful teaching and learning as I visited schools over the last year. Even after years of cuts – nearly \$4 BILLION since 2009 – your leadership and work is evident in the way you’ve still created as many high-quality opportunities for students as you possibly could. This is not a crisis of your making and yet YOU have taken responsibility as leaders to keep as many good things happening as possible. The lost opportunities for students from the cuts you’ve been forced to make are not your fault. I am sincerely moved by the relational cost you’ve had to endure in your communities as you’ve been forced to cut away vital supports for students.

We know many of our children are more school dependent than others; they depend on us for food, social and emotional support, and the precious educational opportunities that create paths to social and economic security. Even without a state budget – or funding for our schools – we have to open for as many days as we can. Our students and families are depending on us.

I believe there is a solution on the horizon and that an approved preK-12 budget will happen before any district has to close its doors to children and the community they serve. Each of your contexts is different and yet we know that every district in Illinois shares a linked purpose and fate. The return on our educational investment in our children is a healthy and vibrant Illinois. When that investment isn’t made, the return isn’t good for any of us.

In my experience, when adults are not in healthy relationships, it is the children who pay the greatest price. Illinois can NOT afford to pay the long-term price of even one day less of the opportunity our public schools offer children and families. ISBE will work with each of our 852 public school districts and every organization possible to help you find ways to meet your unique local challenges to opening –

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and staying open – in fall 2016. Staff at ISBE will strengthen our service to you and work to proactively communicate ways different districts are solving similar problems.

Districts and schools across the state are working hard to close out another great year and are looking ahead to great things for next year. I'm grateful for what I've seen and heard from students this year, trust that we know where we have to improve so more students are thriving, and believe we'll find a way to do what's right for all of our children and families.

Thank you for choosing to dedicate your personal and professional talents to strengthen our communities and serve the students in your care.

With deep respect and appreciation-

Tony Smith, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Education

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>.

- **“Pump Up P.E.: Recent P.E. Developments and Laws in Illinois” webinar** – June 8
(<https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/298689305479717121>)
- **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)
- **Procurement in the 21st Century workshop** - June 15-16
(<http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnsclendar/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)
- **Employment Information System (EIS) webinar** – June 20
(<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5030631110032566785>)
- **“Lead, Focus, Connect: Classrooms in Action Summer Expedition” conference** – June 21-22
(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)
- **Deadline for e-Report Card data collection** – June 30
- **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)
- **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)
- **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)
- **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 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)

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

June 8 Webinar on New Laws and Standards to “Pump up P.E.” in Illinois

Since 2012, Illinois has worked to implement daily, high-quality enhanced physical education for all students in order to promote academic achievement and realize the lifetime benefits of fitness. This work has led to three new requirements related to P.E.: extending “highly qualified” status to physical educators, revising the state learning standards on physical development and health, and administering fitness assessments in grades 3-12.

A webinar is scheduled for 3 to 4:15 p.m. June 8 to provide an overview of these new laws, the associated requirements for schools, and guidance on how these laws are to be implemented. A recording of this webinar will be sent to all who register.

The Illinois Alliance to Prevent Obesity’s workgroup on Childhood Nutrition and Physical Activity in Educational Settings is hosting the “Pump Up P.E.: Recent P.E. Developments and Laws in Illinois” event with support in part by the Chicago Community Trust and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois. The webinar will feature an opening call to action from Jean Sophie, superintendent of schools at Lake Bluff School District 65, and presentations by expert teacher trainers/physical educators. The event will also:

- Illustrate the difference between “outdated P.E.” and “enhanced P.E.,” an evidence-based intervention recommended by the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention to increase physical activity levels in P.E. classes.

- Explain the return on investment for schools implementing enhanced P.E. – the evidence base that demonstrates a connection between movement and improved academic, behavioral, and health student outcomes.
- Give a high-level tour of the revisions to the Illinois Learning Standards on physical development and health and guidance on implementation.
- Answer questions on the new fitness assessment requirements for the 2016-17 school year.
- Provide information on additional upcoming learning opportunities.

To register, go to

<https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/298689305479717121>.

Data Analysis

Register for June 20 EIS Webinar

ISBE is hosting a webinar from 1 to 3 p.m. June 20 that will explain data entry requirements for the remainder of the 2015-16 school year in the Employment Information System (EIS). Additionally, a preview will be provided of what EIS changes are upcoming for 2016-17. There will be time for questions and answers immediately following the presentation.

Please reserve your spot for the webinar at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5030631110032566785>.

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.

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

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

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.

The following resources can be found on the Dental Health Webpage: 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. 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.

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

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 mrubeiro@isbe.net.

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

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. 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://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 is available at <http://isbe.net/gata/>.

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.

In Brief

District Recognition

- 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. 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), and Hawthorn CCSD 73 (Vernon Hills).

School Recognition

- Eleven 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), Traugher Junior High School (Oswego), Zion-Benton Township High School (Zion), and Bloom Trail High School (Chicago Heights).

Grant Opportunities

- The application form for the **2017 Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant** is available at www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/GrantsIBFTG.aspx. Please note that there are some changes incorporated for 2017. Video podcasts to help complete the application form are also available on this website
- A series of video podcasts has been added to www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/GrantsSHAG.aspx to show how **Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grants** can help educators meet some of Illinois' learning standards. Separate video podcasts for grades K-4 and middle school are available. The application form for 2016 is also available on this webpage.
- The **Zayed Global High Schools Prize** is a \$100,000 grant awarded to a school in each of five regions: the Americas, Europe, Africa, Oceania, and Asia. The prize aims to instill an ethos of sustainability in future generations across the globe and inspire children about the impact of energy efficiency, the possibilities of alternative energy, and the promise of sustainability. The registration deadline is 11:59

p.m. June 27. For more details, go to www.zayedfutureenergyprize.com/en/prize-categories/global_high_school_prize/.

Student Opportunities

- The **President's Environmental Youth Award** (PEYA) (<http://go.usa.gov/3u7XB>) is now accepting applications through March 1. The PEYA program promotes awareness of our nation's natural resources and encourages positive community involvement by recognizing outstanding environmental projects by K-12 youth. The award celebrates student leadership in protecting the environment and building a livable, sustainable global community.

Educator Opportunities

- The **National Science Teachers Association fellowships** offer middle school and high school science teachers from specific states in their second through fifth years of teaching a year-long immersion in a host of science-related activities and professional development opportunities. The application deadline is Aug. 5. For more information, visit www.nsta.org/academy/.

Professional Development

- A **“Concussion Update for the School Nurse” course** is scheduled from 1 to 3 p.m. June 14 at Harper College, Room Z 117, 1200 W. Algonquin Road in Palatine. This course is provided by a physician concussion specialist and an ISBE certified school nurse with experience in concussion assessment and management. It provides 2.0 Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) units and meets the training requirement of the Illinois Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act. The cost is \$15. Register any of the following ways and enter registration code 81008: by phone, (847) 925-6300; online at www.harpercollege.edu/ce; or in-person at Wojcik Conference Center lobby, Building W, from 8 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- 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-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.
- 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. Contact Ramona Rendon at rrendon@luc.edu or Evelyn Lyons at 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). The Aug. 1-2 workshop in Oak Brook is now closed but the same workshop will take place at the same time and place on Aug. 3-4 (www.lewisu.edu/rn-working-in-schools).

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>.