



Weekly Message

June 13, 2017

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

The school year has ended or is coming to an end, but that doesn't mean learning should. We know it is important that children continue to exercise their brains over the summer to prevent the loss of critical learning gains, also called the "summer slide." We encourage children and families to incorporate summer reading and learning into their activities in the months ahead. Children who keep their brains active and engaged during summer vacation are more likely to return in the fall confident and prepared for the new school year.

There are ample opportunities for continued learning over the summer. If you are looking for summer resources to share with families and students, you may consider starting with these tip sheets:

- ["Top 10 'Easy Summer Learning Tips' for parents"](#)
- ["Tips to keep tweens and teens learning during the summer"](#)
- ["Keep kids active and healthy during the summer"](#)

As a reminder, the Summer Food Service Program serves free, nutritious meals and snacks to children and teens age 18 and younger. Interested families can call (800) 359-2163, text "FoodIL" or "ComidasIL" to 877-877, or visit SummerMealsIllinois.org.

ISBE offers tools to jumpstart summer learning on our [Summer Learning Program](#) page. Children and families can select books based on a child's interests and Lexile measure by using the online search tool [Find a Book, Illinois](#). [Illinois Reads](#) also shares a list of recommended 2017 children's titles. The [Summer Math Challenge](#) is designed to help children retain math skills learned during the previous school year. Families who enroll their children will receive daily emails with fun activities and links to educational resources. Families can take advantage of the summer weather by spending time outside exploring the plants and animals in their communities. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) provides fun learning activities on their [Kids for Conservation](#) webpage. The June edition of Kids for Conservation features Illinois perches and the July topic will be poison ivy. Children and families can learn basic facts about these species in the information section, watch the video podcast, and take a quiz to test their knowledge.

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I know that you as educators are also spending time this summer reflecting, recharging, and preparing for the next school year. There are a variety of professional development opportunities and conferences over the summer. Remember to check out the “In Brief” section on the last page or two of each edition of the Weekly Message for regular updates.

As you start thinking about next year, IDNR can be a helpful tool for you to utilize, too. Visit the [Education](#) page to find information about educational materials for use in the classroom, grant opportunities, teacher workshops, and more. The [Learning Standards](#) page offers lessons correlated to Common Core Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, Illinois Social Science Standards, and Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards. You can search by grade level, topic, learning standard, and/or subject area. Kids for Conservation offers a [version for early childhood educators](#), as well.

I understand that educators do not really get a summer break. Thank you for your commitment to continued learning – for exploring what went well this year and thinking about how next year can be even better. Please take some time to rest and rejuvenate. You’ve earned it!

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 <http://www.isbe.net>.

- **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)
- **Public comment period ends for proposed amendments to Part 228** – July 24 (www.isbe.net/rules)
- **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

Data Analysis

2016-17 Dental and Eye Examination Data Collection

Dental Examination Data

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/Documents/dental_user_guide.pdf.

The following resources can be found on the Dental Health [webpage](#):

- Learn more about student dental data collection by checking the **School Dental Examinations Information Sheet** at www.isbe.net/Documents/dental_information.pdf.
- Forms acceptable for school year 2016-17 include the **IDPH Proof of School Dental Examination Form**, a tool for dentists to record student dental information. Find it at 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. The form is at www.idph.state.il.us/forms/ohpm/Dental%20Exam%20Waiver.pdf.
- The **Dental Information-Data Entry Worksheet** allows you to enter your data and double-check your aggregate numbers. Find it at www.isbe.net/documents/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 assure submission of 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**.

Eye Examination Data

The Student Health Vision System is open for data entry through June 30, 2017. The data must be submitted online in this timeframe using IWAS. Once logged into IWAS, the “Student Health Data – Vision” link will appear on the System Listing page under “Annual.”

Below are links to important related documents. Please use them for assistance with submitting your data.

- Student Health Data – Vision System – IWAS User Guide for Electronic Submission: https://www.isbe.net/Documents/vision_iwas_guide.pdf
- Eye Examination Data Entry Worksheet: https://www.isbe.net/layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/eye_exam_wsht.xls
- School Eye Examinations – Information Sheet: https://www.isbe.net/Documents/eye_examinations.pdf

As mandated by Section 5/27-8.1 of the School Code, vision data must be submitted for all eligible schools serving kindergarten and any students enrolled for the first time in an Illinois school as of Oct. 17, 2016, by **11:59 p.m. June 30**.

A report must be submitted for every eligible school, without exception. Schools that are not the home school for any student should submit the report by selecting the option that declares they have no data to report. This option may also be selected by home schools that do not serve kindergarten students and had no students in grades 1-12 enrolling for the first time in an Illinois school. All eligible schools should receive IWAS inbox messages regarding Student Health Data -Vision Data Collection. Please check your IWAS inbox for reminders and updates.

Questions regarding school health issues should be referred to Jessica Gerdes at (312) 814-5560 or jgerdes@isbe.net. Questions regarding the information entered for dental and eye examination data collections should be referred to Data Analysis at (217) 782-3950 or mribeiro@isbe.net. For technical assistance with IWAS, please contact the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

Every Student Succeeds Act

Request for Comment on U.S. Department of Education Waiver Regarding Per-Pupil Expenditures Deadline

ISBE is seeking a one-year waiver relating to the per-pupil expenditures of federal, state, and local funds required to be reported annually within the Every Student Succeeds Act. As part of that waiver request, ISBE needs to seek public comment. The letter submitted to the U.S. Department of Education can be found [here](#).

ISBE is fully supportive of this provision and is working toward implementing it; however, we are asking for a waiver of the timeline of dissemination. ISBE believes the reporting of financial data is a critical component of the accountability system and in providing equity information to parents and communities. The distribution of this information is critical for districts to make informed decisions to improve student academic achievement. As such, it is imperative that the data is correct and that districts are trained and supported before this measure is put into place. All necessary steps will be made to move this process along in an expedited manner.

If you have comments, concerns, or questions about this waiver request, please submit them by June 30 to essa@isbe.net.

Nutrition Programs

Annual Application Required for NSLP and Other School Nutrition Programs

Districts wishing to participate in any of the following programs during program year 2017-18 must complete a 2018 application: National School Lunch Program, National School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, After School Snack Program, Illinois Free Lunch Program, Illinois Free Breakfast Program, and the Seamless Summer Option.

This application covers July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018, and is available in the web-based Illinois Nutrition System (WINS), which can be accessed by logging into ISBE Web Application Security (IWAS). [Click here for instructions](#) for accessing and completing your 2018 annual application. Instructions are also available in WINS under the blue-and yellow-question mark.

If your district has not renewed, please do so as soon as possible. More information is available in the [June issue of The Outlook](#).

Rules and Waivers

Notice of Emergency Rulemaking

Please be advised that one set of amendments adopted by ISBE became effective May 24. Changes are available at www.isbe.net/rules. Please choose “Rules Currently in Effect” and scroll to the Part number: Part 228 (Transitional Bilingual Education). See Section 228.10

Invitation to Comment on Rules

Proposed amendments recently reviewed by ISBE regarding Part 228 (Transitional Bilingual Education) are now available for public comment. The proposals and a summary of the issues involved are available at www.isbe.net/rules. Choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net. The public comment period ends July 24.

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.

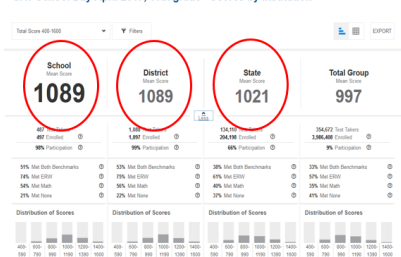
- Individual student scores are finalized and are official scores.
- All aggregate school and district data is **preliminary** until ISBE has released the final data via the Illinois Report Card in October.
- The data in the portal does not include students who canceled their scores with the College 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.**

SAT School Day April 2017, 11th grade - Scores by Institution



CollegeBoard

Title Grant Administration

Foster Transportation and person of contact information due July 31

Districts are required to designate a person of contact (POC) and develop a foster care transportation policy/procedure by **July 31**. This document shall identify procedures governing how transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded in order to maintain children in foster care in their school of origin when in their best interest. **Transportation policies must be sent to foster@isbe.net and POCs must be complete via the Entity profile system by July 31.** Resources including a webinar, transportation guidance and including instructions for completing the POC can be found at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Foster-Care.aspx>.

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/>.

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 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 evening of 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.

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.

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.

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.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.

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.