



# Weekly Message

**June 14, 2016**

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

Hello,

In recent years, Illinois' student body has become more ethnically diverse. According to the 2015 Illinois Report Card, Hispanic students now make up more than a quarter of the student population. With these shifting demographics, the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) Division of English Language Learning has done an outstanding job of offering support and resources to help schools better serve English Learners (ELs).

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On May 7, ISBE held the 11th annual Statewide Summit for Bilingual Parents in Oak Brook. Over 1,000 parents and educators from 115 school districts attended to network and share knowledge and experiences to improve the educational outcomes for ELs across the state. Presenters from ISBE, school districts, and educational organizations discussed a range of topics to help participants better understand the needs of ELs in their schools and become effective advocates for their academic success. Fifty-five workshops were held throughout the event with presentations or interpretation provided in eight languages. The summit also included a variety of student performances representing different cultures.

Earlier this spring, ISBE sponsored the first Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy Symposium, which brought together school districts currently issuing the seal and those districts that are interested in joining the initiative. The state Seal of Biliteracy is a new credential introduced during the 2014-15 school year. Districts may award the seal to graduates who demonstrate a high level of proficiency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking in two or more languages. Participation in the program is optional for districts.

The State Commendation toward Biliteracy recognizes students who demonstrate progress toward full biliteracy in English and another language. In the initiative's first year, 17 school districts awarded 496 Seals of Biliteracy and 213 State Commendations toward Biliteracy in nine languages. For the 2015-16 school year, 54 districts applied to award the seal and expect to issue nearly 6,000 seals and over 1,500 commendations.

To continue to develop and improve educational opportunities for ELs, ISBE has coordinated with the field to develop a new service development resource, "[Equitable Access to Educational Excellence: Framing Services for English Learners in Illinois](#)," and [new endorsement standards for bilingual and English as a Second Language educators](#), which the State Board is currently reviewing.

I am pleased that despite the current financial uncertainty affecting our districts, many of you continue to value the importance of foreign language exposure for all students. I also appreciate your commitment to providing high-quality options for ELs. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) should provide a great opportunity to further help ELs develop English language proficiency and meet academic standards as we develop our state plan. ESSA will also give local schools the freedom to measure ELs in their native languages to appropriately gauge their growth and achievement.

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 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/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](http://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](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 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](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))

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## **Grant Accountability & Transparency Act**

### **FAQ Available About New Application and Award Requirements Under GATA**

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.

A frequently asked questions document is now available on ISBE's GATA webpage at <http://isbe.net/gata/>. A direct link to the FAQ, which will be updated as more information becomes available, is at [www.isbe.net/GATA/pdf/gata-faq.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/GATA/pdf/gata-faq.pdf).

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.

ISBE's [GATA webpage](#) provides further information about the act, training opportunities, and links to resources.

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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## **Special Education Services**

### **Guidance for 1 Percent Exception**

The new guidance document for the 1 percent exception is posted at [www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/exception\\_cap.htm](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/exception_cap.htm). For this year, the exception to the 1 percent does not require districts to submit an application. Rather, ISBE will use the data collected to determine those districts that qualify for the 1 percent exception based on the following criteria:

- Districts with percentages of students assessed for the Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment (DLM-AA) that range from 1 to 2.4 percent will not be required to submit any documentation. Their approval will be based on the number of students assessed for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for

College and Careers (PARCC) exam compared to the number assessed for DLM.

- Districts with percentages of students assessed for DLM-AA that range from 2.5 to 2.9 percent will be required to submit a letter of explanation. ISBE will send districts in this range a letter requesting an explanation and the due date for that letter. The approval will be based on the explanation provided and meeting the deadline for submission of the documentation.
- Districts with percentages of students assessed for DLM-AA that exceed 3 percent will be required to submit a letter of explanation and an individualized education program (IEP) for review. ISBE will send districts in this range a letter requesting an explanation and IEPs with a due date for the requested documentation. The approval will be based on the explanation, the IEPs, and meeting the deadline for submission of the documentation.

For more information, please contact Laura Quimby at [lquimby@isbe.net](mailto:lquimby@isbe.net) or at (217) 782-5589.

## Data Analysis

### 2015-16 Student Health Data – Vision System Now Open

The 2015-16 Student Health Data - Vision system is now open in IWAS. As mandated by Section 5/27-9.1 of the School Code, vision data must be submitted for all eligible schools serving kindergarten and/or any students enrolled for the first time in an Illinois school as of Oct. 15, 2015. This data must be submitted by **11:59 p.m. June 30.**

The following documents are available on the Student Health Data – Vision system, under the menu “User Documentation”. These resources will assist in the data entry process.

- Student Health Data - Vision System IWAS User Guide for Electronic Submission - [www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/vision\\_iwas\\_guide.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/vision_iwas_guide.pdf)
- Eye Examination Data Entry Worksheet - [www.isbe.net/research/xls/eye\\_exam\\_wksht.xls](http://www.isbe.net/research/xls/eye_exam_wksht.xls)
- School Eye Examinations Information Sheet - [www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/eye\\_examinations.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/eye_examinations.pdf)

**Please note:** Schools that are not the home school for any student should log into the system and select the “No Student Data to Report” option. This option may also be selected by home schools that do not serve kindergarten students and/or had no students in grades 1 through 12 enrolling for the first time in an Illinois school.

Ensure all contact information, address, and grades served are up-to-date in the Entity Profile System (EPS) in IWAS. For information on how to update this information, please reference the EPS User Guide at [www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/eps-guide.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/eps-guide.pdf).

Questions regarding school health issues should be referred to Jessica Gerdes at (312) 814-5560 or [jgerdes@isbe.net](mailto:jgerdes@isbe.net).

Questions regarding the information entered for this data collection should be referred to Data Analysis at (217) 782-3950 or [mrribeiro@isbe.net](mailto:mrribeiro@isbe.net).

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

### 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](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.

## 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 who 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 [mrbeiro@isbe.net](mailto:mrbeiro@isbe.net).

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

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## School Health Issues

### CDC Releases Data on Youth Risk Behaviors

Priority health-risk behaviors contribute to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality among youth and adults. The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) monitors six categories of priority health behaviors among youth and young adults: 1. behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence; 2. tobacco use; 3. alcohol and other drug use; 4. sexual behaviors related to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection; 5. unhealthy dietary behaviors; and 6. physical inactivity.

Many high school students engage in behaviors that place them at risk for the leading causes of morbidity and mortality. YRBSS data collected from a random sample of Illinois high school students is used widely to compare the prevalence of health behaviors among subpopulations of students; assess trends in health behaviors over time; monitor progress toward achieving 21 national health objectives for Healthy People 2020 and one of the 26 leading health indicators; provide comparable state and large urban school district data; and help develop and evaluate school and community policies, programs, and practices designed to decrease health-risk behaviors and improve health outcomes among youth.

To learn more about the YRBSS national and state results, go to

[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/ss/ss6506a1.htm?cid=ss6506a1\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/ss/ss6506a1.htm?cid=ss6506a1_e).

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## 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), Traughber 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](http://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](http://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/](http://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/](http://www.nsta.org/academy/).

### 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-15-Underserved-Summit.pdf](http://www.iagcgifted.org/images/stories/pdf/2016-Oct-15-Underserved-Summit.pdf). Attendees will receive six professional development hours. 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).

### **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>.