



# Weekly Message

**June 21, 2016**

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

Hello,

During these challenging times of financial uncertainty, it's especially important to take time out to celebrate the passion and expertise Illinois educators bring to the classroom every day. Today I was privileged to attend the sixth annual Exemplary Teacher Recognition Award Luncheon to honor 29 educators who were selected by their professional education organizations as the best in their fields of expertise over the last school year. The event is sponsored by Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Federation of Teachers, and the Illinois Education Association. It was held at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center.

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It was both humbling and inspiring to have so many exceptional teaching professionals from across the state gathered in one room. This year's honorees include ISBE's 2016 Teacher of the Year, Kim Thomas, as well as other teachers and school nurses who all earned awards in their respective fields or subjects. Please visit [www.isbe.net/news/2016/jun21.htm](http://www.isbe.net/news/2016/jun21.htm) for a complete list of all those we recognized.

The craft of teaching is truly an extraordinary and complex practice. Educators must weave deep content knowledge, pedagogy choices, and an understanding of child development together to connect with students in meaningful ways. There is much that is easily misunderstood about the teaching profession. I believe we must seize every opportunity to show our appreciation and gratitude to the outstanding teachers who change lives every day.

In other good news, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) has announced that Carl Schurz High School in Chicago is one of 10 prize winners in the CTE (Career and Technical Education) Makeover Challenge. The challenge asked high schools to design a "makerspace" – defined by ED as "an environment or facility that provides resources, materials, and equipment for students to conceive, create, and collaborate through making" – that could be shared with other educators to foster and improve career and technical education skills for the 21st century. The prize winners were selected from 640 schools from all 50 states and Washington, D.C.

Carl Schurz will receive \$20,000 and a share of in-kind prizes to build or renovate its makerspace. The school and its fellow honorees will also create a video tour of its makerspace and an online portfolio that will be featured in the CTE Makerspace Showcase at the World Maker Faire in New York City in

October. You can read more about the award at [www.ctemakeoverchallenge.com](http://www.ctemakeoverchallenge.com). Congratulations to the staff and students at Carl Schurz!

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>.

- **“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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### School Health Issues

#### **Model Suicide Prevention Policy Available to All Districts in Illinois**

A youth suicide awareness and prevention policy is required pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/2-3.163, amended by Public Act 99-443.

The Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) has made a model policy available to all school districts in Illinois. To request a copy, please email IASB at [lbremer@iasb.com](mailto:lbremer@iasb.com) with the subject line: Suicide Awareness & Prevention Policy Request.

For more information, please visit [www.iasb.com/law/sdprevention.cfm](http://www.iasb.com/law/sdprevention.cfm).

## 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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## 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 the Illinois State Board of Education (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 Category (e.g., Transportation, Special Education).

One of the new regulations requires grantees to be prequalified prior to receiving an award for fiscal year 2017. 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.

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## 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.

## 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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## In Brief

### 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/).

## **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>.