



# Weekly Message

**June 21, 2017**

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

Hello,

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), signed into law on December 10, 2015, creates an extraordinary opportunity to transform our education systems. ISBE worked with stakeholders during 2016 and early 2017 to create the required ESSA state plan. In the plan, ISBE identified various commitments to further deliberate with our stakeholders. One of these commitments is to receive a recommendation from stakeholders on a new English Learner (EL) reclassification score on ACCESS 2.0 no later than June 30, 2017. This commitment was predicated upon two factors. First, ESSA requires that each state identify a uniform procedure for students to exit English Learner classification status and second, that the ACCESS assessment was revised and was administered in the 2016-17 school year.

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ISBE has received a wide range of recommendations from school and district leaders to consider regarding a uniform exit procedure. The Illinois Advisory Council of Bilingual Education (IACBE) is identified in state statute as the group that makes recommendations to ISBE on topics and issues germane to EL teaching and learning. Practicing teachers, principals, and superintendents, all of whom possess EL expertise, make up the IACBE membership.

IACBE recommended a composite score of 4.8 on ACCESS for a student to exit English Learner classification status retroactive to 2016-17 school year. Students are no longer required to meet specific scores within each of the four domains, rather they must receive a 4.8 composite score on ACCESS. IACBE made its recommendation after reviewing extensive data from ISBE that showed that English Learners with ACCESS composite scores of 4.8 and above performed nearly as well on content performance as students who were not ELs. ISBE is adopting this recommendation.

ACCESS 2.0 was recalibrated to better align with college-and-career readiness standards. ISBE recognizes that modifying the required composite score for exiting English Learners will have a different impact for each district. More specifically, this change could affect the delivery of programming and staffing.

ISBE is committed to assisting school districts with implementation concerns; additional resource information will be forthcoming, including guidance for initial screening. ISBE will closely monitor and review all ESSA implementation and review data to inform adjustments as necessary. As stated

previously, we understand that this change will have a different impact for each district in Illinois and invite you to contact us to share your concerns and suggestions so we can collaborate in order to solve problems. Please feel free to reach out to Jason Helfer at [jhelfer@isbe.net](mailto:jhelfer@isbe.net) or (217) 782-4123 or to Libi Gil at [lgil@isbe.net](mailto:lgil@isbe.net) or (312) 814-2281.

I also want to let you know that ISBE continues to monitor current legislative activity both on reforming the school funding formula and on passing a state budget. Illinois has the most regressive school funding system in the country, wherein the students who need the most, get the least. Combined with the budget impasse, which has delayed more than a billion dollars in critical payments to school districts, our schools and communities are really hurting.

I want to be forthright and transparent about what the current state budget impasse means for education funding as we approach the close of fiscal year 2017.

ISBE has no authority to distribute any state or federal funding for FY 2018 without an enacted state budget. ISBE can voucher scheduled payments for FY 2017 state and federal grants through August 31, 2017.

If Local Education Agencies need to begin normal financial obligations, such as ordering materials, that you intend to charge to your 2018 grants, you are not prohibited from beginning those obligations July 1 for longstanding federal formula-based programs such as Title I, Title II, and IDEA with the understanding that reimbursement of expenditures will be delayed.

However, ISBE recommends exercising caution in expending any funds that you intend to charge to FY 2018 state grant programs beginning July 1, as allocation amounts cannot be guaranteed until there is an enacted FY 2018 budget and your respective 2018 initial grant applications are approved by ISBE's program areas.

In the meantime, more than 2 million students are depending on us to prepare them for success in college, career, and life. So the question Illinois' educators and administrators encounter every day is: What *can* we do to make our delivery of educational services more equitable, to make all children feel more welcome and well known in our schools, and to reshape critical education experiences so all students extract greater meaning to bring their goals to life?

I shared at last week's Board meeting that ISBE is creating a community of practice around transforming high school. High school must be a space where each and every child receives differentiated supports in order to explore and pursue interests in authentic environments. As one part of this community of practice, the State Board last week adopted the [Postsecondary and Career Expectations \(PaCE\) framework](#), which ISBE developed along with the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and stakeholders. PaCE provides guidance to students, families, educators, administrators, and community-based organizations on what types of experiences and information a student should have in the eighth through 12th grades in order to make the most informed decisions about college and career plans after high school. Stay tuned for more opportunities to learn about and engage in PaCE and the community of practice around transforming high school.

I am so appreciative of Illinois educators' dedication and creativity as we transition under ESSA and advocate for the support our students deserve. I am excited by the steps our state is taking to foster learning communities wherein all students are able to explore new ideas, build new skillsets, and set goals for their futures. As always, thank you for your continued hard work and dedication to the students of Illinois.

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

- **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](http://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](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/SpecialEducationDirectorConference.aspx))
- **Deadline to submit FY 2018 Educational Surrogate Parent Training Program RFP** – June 25
- **Public comment period ends for proposed amendments to Part 228** – July 24 ([www.isbe.net/rules](http://www.isbe.net/rules))
- **School Nutrition Programs Back to School Conference** – Aug. 2-3 ([www.isbe.net/Pages/SNPB2S.aspx](http://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](http://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](http://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

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### **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 by ESSA. ISBE needs to seek public comment as part of that waiver request. 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](mailto:essa@isbe.net).

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## Nutrition Programs

### Chicago Summer Meals Kickoff Event in Horner Park



Chicago area Summer Meals sites are holding a family kickoff event on June 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Horner Park at 2741 W. Montrose Ave. in

Chicago. The event promotes and brings awareness to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Summer Meals program, which is administered by ISBE. The program provides nutritional meals to youngsters age 18 and younger during the summer months. The event will include special guests and performances including the Jessie White Tumblers, Chicago Bulls ambassador Bob “Butterbean” Love, and book readings from *Rainbow Fish* author Marcus Pfister.

For more information about the event, please visit <http://summerfeedingillinois.org/?p=605>.

### 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](#).

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## Special Education Services

### FY 2018 Educational Surrogate Parent Training Program RFP Released

The FY 2018 Educational Surrogate Parent (ESP) Training Program Request for Proposal (RFP) has been released. ISBE seeks an entity to recruit and train volunteers across Illinois to increase the pool of qualified and trained individuals available to be appointed by the State Board of Education as educational surrogate parents. The ESP Training Program has four areas of focus: recruitment, training, resource development, and collaboration.

Further information regarding the ESP Training Program, along with the RFP and application form, are available at [www.isbe.net/Pages/Special-Education-Surrogate-Parent-Program.aspx](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Special-Education-Surrogate-Parent-Program.aspx).

The deadline to submit a completed application is 4 p.m. on July 25. For any questions, please contact Erin Cray at [ecray@isbe.net](mailto:ecray@isbe.net) or (217) 782-5589.

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## 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](http://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](http://www.isbe.net/rules). Choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to [rules@isbe.net](mailto:rules@isbe.net). The public comment period ends July 24.

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## 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.

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## 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 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](http://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](mailto:cquezada@isbe.net) or (312) 814-2200.

### Update on Charter Schools Program Cohort II Dissemination RFP

The Charter Schools Program – Cohort II Dissemination RFP 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](mailto:charter@isbe.net) or call Charter Schools at (312) 814-2220 with any questions.

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## 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](http://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](http://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](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. The form is at [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** allows you to enter your data and double-check your aggregate numbers. Find it at [www.isbe.net/documents/dental\\_worksheet.xls](http://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**. 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](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\\_wksht.xls](https://www.isbe.net/_layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/eye_exam_wksht.xls)
- School Eye Examinations – Information Sheet:  
[https://www.isbe.net/Documents/eye\\_examinations.pdf](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](mailto: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](mailto:mribeiro@isbe.net). For technical assistance with IWAS, please contact the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

## 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](http://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](http://www.illinois.gov/sites/accounts/Pages/default.aspx). Additional instructions may also be found at [www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/GranteePortalFAQ.aspx](http://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 SAM.gov registration expires annually and must be renewed to maintain your eligibility for funding. Renewal of your cage code at the SAM.gov web site **does not** require a fee.

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](mailto:GATA@isbe.net) or (217) 782-5630.

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## In Brief

### Educator Recognition

- **Congrats to Superintendent Todd Dugan** of New Holland-Middletown Elementary District 88 for being named Tech & Learning Magazine’s 2017 Leader of the Year!
- **Congrats to Tech & Learning Magazine’s 2017 Leaders of the Year Runners-Up:** **Superintendent P.J. Caposey** of MCUSD 223; **Director of Technology Philip Hintz** of Gurnee School District 56; and **Director of Technology Maureen Miller** of Winnetka Public Schools!
- **Congrats to José M. Torres**, Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy director, for making Tech & Learning magazine’s 2017 List of the Most Influential People in Ed Tech!

### District Recognition

- **Congratulations to Aurora East Unified School District 131** for receiving the USDA 2017 Farm to School Grant! We can’t wait to hear about the amazing work that will come of it.

### 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!

### Recognition Opportunities

- The Illinois Department of Aging is accepting applications for the **2017 Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame**, an annual event recognizing exceptional individuals over 65 who have positively influenced Illinois communities. One of the seven categories is Education. For more information and the nomination form, please visit [www.illinois.gov/aging/HallofFame/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.illinois.gov/aging/HallofFame/Pages/default.aspx).

### Professional Development

- The University of Illinois Extension is offering an **ABCs of School Nutrition Learning Institute** in Oglesby on June 29 as a free, one-day workshop that will provide six hours of professional development training for school nutrition staff. For more information and to register, please visit [https://illinoisaces.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_02OM1fVoIcE71UV](https://illinoisaces.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_02OM1fVoIcE71UV).
- **The Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers Illinois Teachers Workshop** is a three-day event on July 17-19 at Chestnut Mountain Resort in Galena. The workshop is designed to inform educators about the importance of rocks, minerals, and mining in everyday life. For more information and to register, please visit <http://www.iaap-aggregates.org/workshop.htm>.
- 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/GrantsIBFTG.aspx).
- **Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant** applications are now being accepted. New for the program this year are two application options. Option One will allow you to apply for a standard pollinator garden. With this option, the plant species are predetermined. You and the students must decide how best to use these species in your available space. Option Two allows the applicant to determine what type of wildlife habitat to develop. You can view both options at [www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/GrantsSHA G.aspx](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/GrantsSHA G.aspx). Tutorial video podcasts are posted on the webpage 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/](http://www.muconf.missouri.edu/autismconf/).

### ISBE Employment Opportunities

- Watch for ISBE career opportunities and find instructions for applying at [www.isbe.net/Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx).