Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

We are collaborating with stakeholders and other agencies to identify and address local needs in an effort to create systems in Illinois that support all students to and through college and career. As I mentioned in last week's column, the Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) framework, which was developed by ISBE along with the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and stakeholders, will help students select the right postsecondary option, prepare for careers, and access financial aid opportunities.

ISBE will be "going live" on Facebook at **3 p.m. tomorrow, June 28,** for a Q&A about PaCE with ISBE Director of Community Partnerships and Secondary Transformation Mary Reynolds and Illini Central CUSD 189 Superintendent Mike Ward. They will share how they envision using the framework to help all students prepare for college and career and will be open to answering any questions you have. This will be a great opportunity for you engage in conversation and learn more about this new initiative. You can send in your questions ahead of time to social_media@isbe.net or post them live on Wednesday. We hope you can tune in! Read more background information about PaCE here.

National Summer Learning Day is also right around the corner. July 13 provides us with an opportunity to spread awareness about the importance of keeping children active and engaged during the summer months to prevent learning loss. Find and share summer learning events and programs in your community at http://www.summerlearning.org/events/. As a reminder, you can find summer learning resources from ISBE here.

We know that it takes a village to educate and nurture each student as a whole child. Student success in a school community is linked to the hard work and dedication of educators, administrators, school nurses, librarians – all community members who work to create a safe and healthy learning environment. I had the privilege last week of honoring 40 educators who were selected by their professional education organizations as the best in their fields of expertise over the last school year at the seventh annual Exemplary Teacher Recognition Award Luncheon in Normal. ISBE, the Illinois Federation of Teachers, and the Illinois Education Association sponsored the event. The teachers and school staff who were recognized have demonstrated innovation, commitment, and a remarkable drive to do all they can in support of students. Find a complete list of those honored here. Congratulations!

Thanks to all who have submitted nominations for the 43rd annual Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year Program. Our staff received an exciting number of applications and are thrilled to have the opportunity to recognize more individuals who have made significant contributions to Illinois schools.

Have a great week!

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*.

- **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)
- **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)
- **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
- **ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day** – Oct. 9
- **Deadline to submit FY 2018 School District Budget/Joint Agreement Forms –** Oct. 31

Illinois Community College Board

ICCB and College Board to Conduct SAT Benchmark Study

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) recently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the College Board to conduct a four-year study on SAT benchmarks specifically utilizing Illinois data, based upon Illinois student performance, and targeting English and math placement in the community college system. The overall goal of this research is to assist the ICCB with the establishment of a common *voluntary* placement framework for students that increases equity, predictability, articulation, and portability across Illinois community colleges. To meet this goal, the ICCB is committed to engaging educators in a collaborative process focused on consensus building and the development of an agreed upon framework for adoption. In the meantime, the ICCB recommends that Illinois community colleges use current SAT benchmarks for placement decisions into credit-bearing courses. For additional information on this study and its implications for community colleges,

contact Dr. Brian Durham at brian.durham@illinois.gov.

The Illinois Community College Board is the state coordinating board for community colleges. Illinois is home to 48 community colleges in 39 districts and has the third largest community college system in the nation serving nearly 850,000 residents each year in credit and non-credit courses.

Illinois Report Card

Compare Schools Feature Now Enhanced on Illinois Report Card

The Illinois Report Card has launched a more robust Compare Schools feature. Users can now compare up to eight schools in three categories – Fast Facts, Academic Progress, and School Environment. The blue Compare button in the upper right corner of every page takes you to this function. New tools to help users find meaningful comparisons include a "shopping bag" of selected schools and simple methods for adding or removing schools. The information included in the comparisons goes beyond test scores to show school highlights submitted by principals, college readiness benchmarks, student characteristics, and district finances.

Work is continuing on more enhancements to the Report Card, including comprehensive data on students with IEPs and an Advanced Comparisons tool that will be available in October 2017.

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.

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 or (217) 782-5589.

Rules and Waivers

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that three sets of amendments recently adopted by ISBE became effective June 2. Changes are available at www.isbe.net/rules. Please choose "Rules Currently in Effect" and scroll to the Part number: Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision). See Sections 1.77, 1.280, 1.420, 1.705, 1.720, 1.790; Section 20.10; and Sections 26.100 and 26.300.

Data Analysis

Employee Evaluations Due in EIS by Aug. 1

This is a reminder that employee evaluations are due on **Tuesday, August 1** in the Employment Information System (EIS). Evaluations were mandated in the Performance Evaluations Reform Act in Senate Bill 315; Public Act 96-0861.

What's due by August 1, 2017:
- Teacher evaluation summative rating
- Principal and assistant principal summative rating

NOTE: If a teacher was not evaluated in SY 2017, you do not need to enter an evaluation. Teachers, principals, and assistant principals are the only positions requiring evaluations. No other EIS positions require an evaluation. No evaluations are required for district superintendents.

For step-by-step instructions on how to enter employee evaluations, please see "Entering Employee Evaluations: A How-To Guide" at www.isbe.net/Documents/entering-employee-eval-guide.pdf#search=entering%20employee%20evaluations.

To assist in the process, ISBE will be conducting an Evaluation and Salary webinar from 1:30-3 p.m.

on Thursday, July 6. To register, visit
https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/11621094074
03704833.

For questions or comments related to entering the
evaluations in EIS, please call the Data Analysis
Division at (217) 782-3950. For questions related to
IWAS, please call the Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

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.pd
  f.
- 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/De
  ntalExamProof10.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%20Exa
  m%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**. 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?Sourc
  eUrl=/Documents/eye_exam_wksht.xls
- School Eye Examinations – Information Sheet:
  https://www.isbe.net/Documents/eye_examinations.p
  df

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.

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 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 or (217) 782-5630.

In Brief

District Recognition

- **Congrats to Lake Park High School District 108** for completing their two major solar photovoltaic systems, making it one of the first districts in Illinois to adopt solar power on a large scale!

- **Congrats 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 the 32 Illinois FFA Chapters** selected to represent Illinois in the National Chapter Award area at National FFA! Good luck at Nationals!

- **Congrats to the Churchville Middle School Coderz** of Elmhurst CUSD 205 for placing first in the Code Rush Competition! Awesome job, Coderz!

- **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!

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!

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.

Student Opportunities

- Veterans of Foreign Wars is partnering with schools to offer scholarship programs such as the **Patriot's Pen Contest (grades 6-8) and the Voice of Democracy Contest (grades 9-12)**. The entry deadline is Oct. 31. For more information, please visit www.vfw.org/youth/.

Professional Development

- Lewis University is offering a **Registered Nurses Workshop** on July 24-25 **or July 26-27 (new session added due to interest)** 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.

- **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 to reserve your spot on the team.

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/.

ISBE Employment Opportunities

- Watch for ISBE career opportunities and find instructions for applying at www.isbe.net/Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx.