



Weekly Message

June 28, 2016

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

I know all of you are anxious and frustrated with the lack of a fiscal year 2017 budget and the financial uncertainty that creates as we approach the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1. I continue to believe that the General Assembly will send Governor Bruce Rauner a budget soon to avoid further significant disruption of school operations and student services. In the event that appropriations are not made for education by July 1, I want to describe in a way that is as forthright and transparent as possible what that means for the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and local education agencies – specifically, ISBE’s ability to process payments for FY 2017 state and federal grant programs that would begin July 1.

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In the absence of appropriations for education for FY 2017, all financial obligations that normally begin on July 1 for activities, services, and materials for all state education programs (such as Early Childhood, Career and Technical Education, and Illinois Free Breakfast/Lunch) and federal programs (such as Titles I, II and III, the National School Lunch program cluster, and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) programs) cannot be paid by the agency. The availability of new FY 2017 federal awards by the U.S. Departments of Education and Agriculture do not supersede the necessary state spending authority ISBE needs to distribute the federal funds via an appropriation for education. The FY 2017 federal grant awards are not jeopardized or lost, but the agency cannot distribute those federal funds without appropriation authority.

The lack of a FY 2017 appropriation, however, does not affect ISBE’s ability to continue to pay for services and obligations incurred prior to June 30, which are part of the 2016 limited state appropriations to the State Board of Education per Public Act 99-0005, enacted on June 25, 2015. The agency will continue to process payments for FY 2016 state and federal grant projects and claims until the end of the two-month state lapse period on Aug. 31, 2016.

Finally, I understand that many of you need to begin normal financial obligations, such as ordering materials, beginning July 1 that you intend to charge to your 2017 grants. You are not prohibited from beginning those obligations for longstanding federal formula-based programs such as Title I, Title II, and IDEA, which have yet to come online in our electronic Grants Management System, with the understanding that reimbursement of expenditures will be delayed. However, please be cautious regarding obligations for state grant programs after July 1 as allocation amounts cannot be guaranteed until there is an enacted FY 2017 budget and your respective 2017 initial grant applications are approved by our agency program areas.

The financial uncertainty of the last few months is uncharted territory for our schools and districts. I appreciate your continued professionalism and dedication to students, families, and staff as we navigate these difficult financial straits together.

Please continue to advocate for a PreK-12 budget before July 1!

Thank you for all you do,
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 the agency's official website at <http://www.isbe.net>.

- **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)
- **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)
- **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)
- **State Assessment Review Committee public hearing via video conference in Chicago and Springfield** – July 7
- **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 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)

Grant Accountability & Transparency Act

Grantee Registration Portal Open

Please be advised that the grantee prequalification registration portal is now active and may be accessed directly on the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act website at

<http://www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/default.aspx>. All grantees must complete the registration process and be qualified to do business with the state of Illinois.

To be qualified for a fiscal year 2017 grant award, an entity must

1. have a current DUNS number,
2. have a current SAM CAGE Code,
3. not be on the Federal Excluded Parties List, and
4. be in good standing with the Illinois Secretary of State (if applicable).

Grantees will receive an automated email once initial registration is submitted. All ISBE grantees will have their registrations reviewed and approved by ISBE staff. Grantees will be notified of any deficiencies that can be remediated. Remediation cannot be obtained if the grantee appears on the Federal Excluded Parties List. Once the grantee registration is approved by ISBE, a separate email will be sent that indicates that the GATA registration process is complete and that the organization is in good standing. Grantee registration is completed one time and is good for one year.

Separately, all grantees that receive state or federal funds from ISBE will be required to complete a Fiscal Internal Control Questionnaire as well as a Program Risk Assessment Questionnaire via a new IWAS system, which will be available shortly after the July 4 holiday. The Fiscal Internal Control Questionnaire and the Program Risk Assessment Questionnaire are required to be completed one time by each grantee and approved by ISBE. They are good for one year. A separate notification will be distributed when the new IWAS GATA Risk Assessments System is available.

Please note, however, that without an appropriation for education for FY 2017, ISBE has no authority to award payments for state and federal grant programs.

ISBE encourages grantees to complete the registration as soon as possible.

Assessment and Accountability

State Assessment Review Committee Holding PARCC Listening Tour

The State Assessment Review Committee (SARC) is holding a “PARCC listening tour” to collect feedback from students, parents, teachers, and administrators about the second year of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

(PARCC) assessment administration in Illinois schools. The SARC was created by Senate Bill 3412.

Members of the public can share their input in three ways:

1. A “**focus group**”- style conversation with one to two members of the SARC committee;
2. A **survey** via the following links:
 - o Teacher survey: www.surveymonkey.com/r/BJYKK7K
 - o Student survey: www.surveymonkey.com/r/B5LHMMR
 - o Parent survey: www.surveymonkey.com/r/H2GYWVX
 - o Parent survey (Spanish): www.surveymonkey.com/r/M8FRW5X
3. A SARC **public hearing** will be held via video-conference in Chicago and Springfield from 1 to 4 p.m. on July 7.
 - o The Chicago location is the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) video conference room on the 14th floor at 100 W. Randolph St. The Springfield location is the ISBE video conference room on the third floor at 100 N. First St.

All feedback will be included in the SARC’s final report.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

NOTICE: Direct Certification with Income-Eligible Medicaid Update for SY 2016-17

ISBE Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division staff continue to work with U.S. Department of Agriculture and Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services staff to reinstate participation in the Demonstration Project utilizing income-eligible Medicaid records for direct certification.

At this time, ISBE staff knows that the Medicaid matches will NOT be provided on the annual July 2016 Direct Certification File and are uncertain as to the exact date on which the Medicaid data will be available. However, once ISBE confirms accurate Medicaid data is being received and approval is received from the USDA, the Medicaid matches will be provided through the ISBE Direct Certification

system. Notification will occur once a specific date is known.

If you have questions, please contact School Nutrition Program staff at (800) 545-7892 or via email at cnp@isbe.net.

Registration Open for Direct Certification, Certification, and Verification Workshop

Registration is now open for the direct certification, certification, and verification workshop for school district staff. This half-day workshop offers training on the overall regulations related to the use of the Electronic Direct Certification System, certification of household eligibility applications, and verification efforts. This training session is intended for staff members who work directly with the overall certification process at school districts.

There is no registration fee for these workshops, and beverage service will be available. For complete information, please visit www.isbe.net/nutrition and select “SNP Workshops.” Please note locations tend to fill up quickly, so it is important to complete registration as soon as possible.

Dates and Locations

- July 19 – Schaumburg (afternoon session)
- July 20 – Bradley (morning session)
- July 27 – Fairview Heights (morning session)
- July 28 – Bloomington (morning session)

To register, please visit webprod1.isbe.net/cnsclendar/asp/eventlist.asp.

If you have any questions, please contact division staff at cnp@isbe.net or (800) 545-7892.

Educator Licensure

Maintaining Educator Privacy

Please be aware that the following educator information contained in the Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS) consists of personal, private information and/or unique identifiers. This information should not be shared with anyone who does not otherwise have access to this information in

ELIS without express, written consent of the educator.

- Illinois Educator Identification Number (IEIN)
- Social Security Number (SSN)
- Birthdate
- Personal email address
- Home address
- Personal telephone or mobile number

Special Education Services

Understanding Dyslexia Webpage Now Available

Public Act 98-0705 required ISBE, subject to appropriation or the availability of private donations, to establish an advisory group to develop a training module or training modules to provide education and professional development to teachers, school administrators, and other educational professionals regarding multi-sensory, systematic, and sequential instruction in reading.

Although no funding was appropriated for this advisory group, the Board decided to convene a group of stakeholders to discuss this important topic and review existing programs.

A new webpage, specific to understanding dyslexia, is now available and includes information developed by the advisory group. The website can be found at www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/dyslexia.htm.

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 with the subject line: Suicide Awareness & Prevention Policy Request.

For more information, please visit
www.iasb.com/law/sdprevention.cfm.

In Brief

Professional Development

- Due to requests from school nurses and districts, Lewis University, in partnership with the Illinois Association of School Nurses, is offering an additional **two-day workshop for registered nurses** working in schools. The workshop will take place in Oak Brook on Aug. 3-4. It will present an overview of the legalities of working in schools, nursing responsibilities, overview of special education processes, preparation for emergencies and disasters, application of the nursing process in a school setting, state and national standards of school nursing, guidelines for running a school health offices, and a month-by-month overview of school health services. It is designed for nurses who do not hold a Professional Educator License. For more information and to register, please visit www.lewisu.edu/rn-working-in-schools/index.htm.

Student Recognition

- Congratulations to **Chicago's Curie Metropolitan High School** student vocal group, Musicality, for successfully making it through the first round of auditions on NBC's "America's Got Talent" competition (<http://chicago.suntimes.com/news/curie-high-school-vocal-group-wows-on-americas-got-talent/>).

Grant Opportunities

- The application form for the **2017 Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant** is available at 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 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.

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/.

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>.