



Weekly Message

July 13, 2016

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

Following Monday's announcement regarding administration of the SAT exam at high school, I would like to first thank all of you for your valuable input surrounding our state assessments. By working as a team, we were able to make a positive change for the benefit of our students, teachers, schools, and districts and ensure each and every student has access to a college entrance exam during the school day.

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ISBE is currently working with the College Board to execute a contract for the SAT exam, including the writing portion. I will update you as we finalize our assessment administration plan for the upcoming school year.

We will continue to seek your input as we strive to strengthen the quality and functionality of our assessment system to meet the needs of our students and provide relevant, timely feedback to educators and districts to inform student learning. We stand behind both the PARCC assessment and the SAT as high-quality assessments that are aligned with state learning standards.

I am encouraged by the positive feedback that I have received since this announcement, and I welcome your input in the days to come. Again, thank you for your partnership and continued support as we work to make decisions together to best prepare our students for college and careers.

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 the agency's official website at <http://www.isbe.net>.

- **ISBE's Professional Development Re-Ignite event** – July 27
(<http://webapps.isbe.net/ISBEConference/>)
- **Deadline to submit FY 2016 State and Federal Grant Amendments and End Date Extensions for projects ending Aug. 31 to ISBE** – Aug. 1

- **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.)
- **Early Childhood Block Grant – Intent to Submit a Proposal for FY 2017 form deadline** – July 15 (www.isbe.net/earlychi/default.htm)
- **Deadline to submit FY 2017 Prevention Initiative for Birth to Age 3 Years RFP** – Aug. 15 (<http://isbe.net/earlychi/html/birth-3.htm>)
- **Deadline to submit FY 2017 Preschool for All Expansion 3 to 5 Years RFP** – Aug. 15 (<http://isbe.net/earlychi/preschool/default.htm>)
- **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

GATA Risk Assessment System Open

The Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Risk Assessment is open and accessible by logging into the IWAS portal. All ISBE grantees must submit a completed Program Risk Questionnaire for ISBE review and approval. An automated IWAS email will be returned to the grantee after approval.

IMPORTANT:

Information provided in the June 28 State Superintendent's Weekly Message stated that grantees would complete both a Fiscal Internal Control Questionnaire (ICQ) as well as a Program Risk Assessment Questionnaire via the new IWAS system. Please note that it has been determined that the ICQ will be completed on a centralized system through the State of Illinois and not through ISBE's Risk Assessment System. After a grantee completes the registration process at the GATA website (www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/default.aspx), an automated email will provide a link to access the grantee's State of Illinois ICQ form to complete. The ICQ is required to be completed one time by each grantee and is good for one year.

A **DISTRICT ADMIN**-level user must submit the GATA Risk Assessment. The GATA Risk Assessment application link will not be available to all users. Users with district-level accounts should request access to the system internally from their administrator. Technical assistance regarding system access steps can be directed to the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

ISBE encourages grantees to complete the registration, ICQ, and Program Risk Assessment Questionnaire as soon as possible.

For additional information regarding the implementation of GATA by the Illinois State Board of Education, please visit <http://www.isbe.net/GATA/default.htm>.

You can also contact your program area, send an email to GATA@isbe.net, or contact the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at (217) 782-5256 with any questions.

Grantee Registration Portal Open

The grantee prequalification registration portal is now active and may be accessed directly on the GATA website at 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 active DUNS number, (click [HERE](#) to view instructions on obtaining a DUNS number);
2. have a current active SAM CAGE Code, (click [HERE](#) to view instructions on obtaining a SAM Cage Code);

3. not be on the Federal Excluded Parties List, (click [HERE](#) to verify utilizing the Quick Search under Search Records); and
4. be in good standing with the Illinois Secretary of State, if 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.)

Grantees will receive an automated email once initial registration is submitted. 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, 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.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

Summer Programs Help Provide Free Nutritious Meals to Children

ISBE is teaming up with partners and sponsors across the state to offer free meals to children this summer at more than 2,000 sites across Illinois. Participants can call (800) 359-2163, text “FoodIL” to 877-877, or visit summerfeedingillinois.org to find the closest meal sites. Please help us spread the word about the website, phone number, and texting details.

School districts, local government entities, and nonprofit organizations serve as summer food sponsors and sites to ensure children have free, healthy meals and snacks all summer long. ISBE’s partners, No Kid Hungry and the Illinois Hunger Coalition, staff the hotline and texting numbers, referring families to feeding sites.

Last summer, Illinois had 168 sponsors for the Summer Food Service Program and an additional 136 sponsors in the Seamless Summer Option, helping provide meals to children 18 and younger. Both summer meal programs are funded by the U.S.

Department of Agriculture and administered by ISBE. Sponsors oversaw 2,372 meal sites in communities throughout Illinois in 2015.

Upon texting “FoodIL,” or “ComidasIL” for Spanish, to 877-877, individuals will be prompted to send a city and ZIP code, after which they will receive the address and serving times of the closest summer meals sites. Interested participants can also call the Illinois Hunger Coalition’s hunger hotline at (800) 359-2163.

While there has been a slight increase in sponsors and sites in recent years, there is still a need for more coverage so the programs can reach every Illinois county. It’s not too late if you are interested in becoming a feeding site. Call ISBE’s Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division at (800) 545-7892 to be referred to a local sponsor.

Funding and Disbursements

Deadline for Final FY 2016 State & Federal Grant Amendments – Aug. 31 End Dates

Please be advised that all state and federal project end date extension requests and final budget amendments must be received at ISBE no later than 30 calendar days prior to the end date of the project.

The deadline for final amendments for state and federal grants with a project end date of Aug. 31, 2016, is Aug. 1.

Note to Special Education and Education for Employment Cooperative Administrators:

Member district amendments need to be submitted to the Cooperative/EFE Administrator in a timely fashion to accommodate a final review for accuracy and approvability before acceptance and approval to ISBE on or before the Aug. 1 deadline.

Questions regarding this information can be directed to Funding and Disbursements at (217) 782-5256.

Early Childhood Education

Early Childhood Block Grant – Intent to Submit a Proposal for FY 2017

The notices of intent to submit a proposal for the fiscal year 2017 Early Childhood Block Grant Preschool for All Expansion Children Ages 3 to 5 Years and the Prevention Initiative Birth to 3 Years programs are now posted on the Early Childhood website under “What’s New” at www.isbe.net/earlychi/default.htm.

School districts and entities that received funding in FY 2016, and are currently in good standing, may submit a proposal for additional funding in FY 2017.

The notice form must be submitted no later than July 15 to help ISBE staff determine the number of reviewers that will be necessary. Submission of this notice is not a prerequisite for submitting a proposal, nor does it obligate the organization to submit a proposal.

This form can be faxed to (217) 785-7849 or emailed to earlychi@isbe.net. If you have questions, contact the Early Childhood Division at (217) 524-4835.

NOTE: This grant application is for those programs who wish to adopt the Preschool Expansion model only. The PFA Expansion Grant will be awarded for FY 2017. In FY 2018, there will be an open, competitive grant opportunity for all eligible applicants. If you feel your program may have submitted a “Notice of Intent to Apply” in error, please send a notice to rescind to earlychi@isbe.net.

FY 2017 Prevention Initiative for Birth to Age 3 Years RFP Released

The Prevention Initiative for Birth to 3 Years: FY 2017 request for proposals (RFP) is now available. The purpose of the RFP is to fund current, successful Prevention Initiative (PI) grantees to build capacity to implement quality PI programming as defined by the nine RFP components, as well as the identified program model chosen.

Proposals must be received by ISBE no later than 4 p.m. Aug. 15. The RFP is available at <http://isbe.net/earlychi/html/birth-3.htm>. Applicants can also receive the RFP by contacting the Early Childhood Division at (217) 524-4835.

FY 2017 Preschool for All Expansion 3 to 5 Years RFP Released

The Preschool for All Expansion: FY 2017 RFP is now available. The purpose of the RFP is to identify qualified entities to provide a high-quality, comprehensive preschool program to the most at-risk children as outlined in the RFP. Only programs that had an FY 2016 Preschool for All grant are eligible to apply.

Proposals must be received by ISBE no later than 4 p.m. Aug. 15. The RFP is available at <http://isbe.net/earlychi/preschool/default.htm>. Applicants can also receive the RFP by contacting the Early Childhood Division at (217) 524-4835.

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

Classroom Resources

- Downloadable PDF **Illinois Learning Standard books** are now available for each grade level. The books include the new fine arts standards that were recently approved. Digital ebooks will be available for each grade level by the end of July. The ebooks can be accessed by using iBooks on Apple devices or other ebook readers for Android/Kindle. To download the PDF versions or for more information, please visit www.ilclassroomsinaction.org/standardsbooks.html.

School Climate Resources

- Onlineschools.org has released a **bullying and cyberbullying guide** to provide information and resources to schools, parents, and students to better understand and help prevent bullying in schools and online. To view the guide, please visit www.onlineschools.org/student-bullying-guide/.

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.

School Recognition

- **The University of Illinois Laboratory High School** received a historic gift of \$1.25 million dollars from anonymous donors toward its Innovations in Learning initiative. The gift will be used to transform learning spaces with enhanced technology and mobile student stations to encourage collaboration among students and teachers. Congrats, Uni High!

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/>).

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>.