Title II and Title IV

Letters to Congress about Federal Budget

Previously, ISBE requested comments and examples of how potential cuts to Title II and Title IV of the Every Student Succeeds Act would impact schools and districts in Illinois. This past week ISBE sent letters to the member of the Illinois congressional delegation and the chairman and ranking members of the House Appropriation Committee and Subcommittees conveying our concern regarding Title II and Title IV. Thank you for helping us make such a persuasive argument. We will keep you informed as the federal budget conversation progresses.

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 www.isbe.net.

- 2017 Special Education Directors Conference – July 19-21 (www.isbe.net/Pages/Annual-Special-Education-Directors-Conference.aspx)
- Deadline to submit FY 2018 Educational Surrogate Parent Training Program RFP – July 25
- Public comment period ends for proposed amendments to Part 228 – July 24 (www.isbe.net/rules)
- Employee evaluations due in EIS – Aug. 1
- Deadline to submit comments on ED regulations – Aug. 1
- School Nutrition Programs Back to School Conference – Aug. 2-3 (www.isbe.net/Pages/SNPB2S.aspx)
- Back to School Administrators Webinar – Aug. 9
- Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in fall 2017 – Aug. 11 (See www.isbe.net/rules for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)
- Public comment period ends for proposed amendments to Parts 23 and 75 – Aug. 14 (www.isbe.net/rules)
- 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
- Illinois State Board of Education meeting – Sept. 13-14 (www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx)
- ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day – Oct. 9
- Illinois State Board of Education meeting – Oct. 18 (www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx)
- Deadline to submit FY 2018 School District Budget/Joint Agreement Forms – Oct. 31
**Back to School**

**2017 Back to School Webinar with Superintendent Smith**

State Superintendent Tony Smith will lead a webinar for district administrators at 1 p.m. on Aug. 9 in preparation for the 2017-18 school year. He will speak about funding for schools, address new developments in state implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act, and update district administrators on state assessments and other key ongoing education initiatives. He will also discuss the resources that will be provided to administrators as they launch into the new school year.

A portion of the webinar will be devoted to answering questions. Participants are invited to email questions to backtoschool@isbe.net by Aug. 4. A list of most frequently asked questions will be compiled and addressed during the webinar.

To register, please go to https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/103282773089995906.

**Early Childhood Education**

**Notice of Intent to Submit FY 2018 RFP**

Submission of the Intent to Apply is required in order to access the fiscal year 2018 Prevention Initiative electronic Request for Proposals (RFP) and the FY 2018 Preschool for All Expansion 3 to 5 years RFP. Please note: Any Notice of Intent submission with regard to Early Childhood funding from spring 2017 is now void and will not be used in the FY 2018 RFP process for this one-year funding opportunity.

- FY 2018 Birth to 3 Years Notice of Intent to Submit Proposal - Prevention Initiative
- FY 2018 Preschool for All Expansion 3 to 5 Years Notice of Intent to Submit Proposal - Preschool for All Expansion 3 to 5 Years

Questions regarding the Intent to Submit surveys can be sent to earlychi@isbe.net.

**Call for RFP Evaluators**

ISBE’s Early Childhood Education Division has issued a call for evaluators for the FY 2018 RFP: Prevention Initiative Birth to Age 3 and Preschool for All Expansion Model State. To apply, please complete the survey. In submitting this application, you are volunteering time and expertise to complete the evaluation of approximately 10 to 20 proposals. Questions may be forwarded to the Early Childhood Education Division at earlychi@isbe.net.

**English Learners**

**Letters to Families on New ‘English Proficient’ Definition Now Available**

ISBE recently created letters to assist districts in communicating the new definition of “English Proficient” to staff and families. Letters from ISBE to superintendents, bilingual program directors, and families are available online in 12 different languages.

Additionally, ISBE has provided a template letter for districts to personalize for the families in their communities. All letters and templates are available for download on ISBE’s English Learners website at www.isbe.net/Pages/ACCESS-for-ELLs.aspx.

**Charter Schools**

**Charter Schools Program Grant 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 RFP Intent to Apply. The secure, online RFP will be available later this month. 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 form is available at www.isbe.net/Documents/43-48A_FY18_Charter(Intent to Apply).pdf.

For any questions, please contact Claudia Quezada at cquezada@isbe.net or (312) 814-2200.
Funding & Disbursements

Deadline for Final FY 2017 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, 2017, 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.

Educator Effectiveness

Teacher and Principal Evaluator Retraining

To receive credit for principal or teacher evaluator retraining, the retraining must be taken in the next renewal cycle following the initial training. Evaluators who have taken the initial evaluator training (Growth Through Learning Modules or developed by the district) must complete retraining “once within the next renewal cycle” (105 ILCS 5/24A-3).

For example:
An educator’s renewal cycle is 7/1/2012 – 6/30/2017. He took the initial training in 2012 (FY 2013). This educator’s retraining must be completed between 7/1/2017 – 6/30/2022 (during his next license cycle.) **If taken before 7/1/2017, then retraining credit cannot be awarded.** The educator will, however, receive full Administrator’s Academy credit or professional development hours that can be used toward renewal of his license.

It should also be noted that participants **must have completed the initial training before completing the retraining.**

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

Upcoming Events

- The second annual Leap InnovatED Summit is taking place Aug. 28 at Hyatt Regency McCormick Place in Chicago. The summit will offer sessions featuring experts in education innovation and widespread networking opportunities. For more information and to register, visit www.leapinnovatedsummit.org.

District Recognition

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

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!

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

- The University of St. Francis is holding the Character Education for the Next Generation Conference July 21 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. in Joliet. Speakers include Matt Klosterman, superintendent of Belleville School District - the first district in Illinois to be recognized as a District of Character. Other presentations include Social Media and Cyberbullying, Senate Bill 100 and Restorative Justice, PBIS, character education, and how to apply to be a School of Character. To register, visit http://www.stfrancis.edu/real/char-ed.

- 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. “RN’s 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.
ISBE Employment Opportunities

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