



Weekly Message

Aug. 16, 2016

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

First off, I would like to thank 2016 Illinois Teacher of the Year Kim Thomas and her students for sharing her “mathtastic” excitement out at the State Fair in Springfield this past weekend at the Governor’s Tent. Kim’s enthusiasm and creative teaching tools attracted kids of all ages, even parents, to join in the math fun. She is truly an inspiration to all. ISBE will have a booth in the Governor’s Tent through the end of the State Fair -- come say hello!

I would also like to remind our district leaders that the Back to School Webinar will be taking place tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. If you have not yet signed up, it’s not too late. You can register at

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4958750538627991812>. Thank you to those who have submitted your questions for me in advance. Shortly after the webinar, we will post a recording on the ISBE website for those of you who are not able to participate. I look forward to speaking with you all about the upcoming school year and to answering any remaining questions that you have.

Another round of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) listening tour meetings is coming up next month and will continue around the state through October. This is a significant opportunity to offer feedback in order to better serve all students, especially our most vulnerable. I urge all of you to encourage your teachers, parents, and communities to participate on this occasion to ensure access to a high-quality education for each of our diverse students. To view the schedule, please visit

<http://www.isbe.net/essa/pdf/ESSA-tour2-schedule-0916.pdf>.

Additionally, I would like to congratulate 24 Illinois high schools for being named among Newsweek’s top 500 public high schools in the country! The annual ranking is based on performance on state assessments, graduation rates, college readiness, and the percentage of college-bound students. Check out the list of these amazing schools [here](#).

Finally, one last congratulations is in order to ISBE’s own Dora Welker, division administrator of College and Career Readiness, who received an award from the Illinois Council for Agricultural Education for her contribution to and support of agricultural education in Illinois. The award was presented to Dora by the Governor on Sunday at the State Fair.

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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>.

- **Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division Electronic Direct Certification Webinar** – Aug. 24 (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1896151058993677570>)
- **State Board of Education Meeting** – Aug. 25 (<http://www.isbe.net/board/pdf/2016-board-meetings.pdf>)
- **Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division Certification of Household Eligibility Applications Webinar** – Aug. 30 (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4165417714397894658>)
- **Deadline to apply for 2017 School Nutrition Program if school starting in Aug.** – Aug. 31 (<http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/instructions.htm>)
- **Deadline to file affidavit for school treasurer bonds** – Sept. 1 (www.isbe.net/sfms/html/t_bonds.htm)
- **Deadline to submit the Letter of Intent to Participate in an Alternative Survey** – Sept. 1 (www.isbe.net/5essentials/pdf/2016-17/survey-letter-of-intent-16-17.pdf)
- **Deadline to submit Employment Information System (EIS) salary data** – Sept. 1 (www.isbe.net/eis/)
- **ISBE offices closed for Labor Day** – Sept. 5
- **State Board of Education Meeting** – Sept. 14-15 (<http://www.isbe.net/board/pdf/2016-board-meetings.pdf>)
- **ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day** – Oct. 10
- **State Board of Education Meeting** – Oct. 20 (<http://www.isbe.net/board/pdf/2016-board-meetings.pdf>)
- **Deadline to submit FY 2017 School District Budget/Joint Agreement Forms to ISBE** – Oct. 31 (www.isbe.net/sfms/budget/default.htm)
- **ISBE offices closed for Veterans Day** – Nov. 10
- **State Board of Education Meeting** – Nov. 18 (<http://www.isbe.net/board/pdf/2016-board-meetings.pdf>)
- **ISBE offices closed for Thanksgiving** – Nov. 23-24
- **State Board of Education Meeting** – Dec. 15 (<http://www.isbe.net/board/pdf/2016-board-meetings.pdf>)
- **ISBE offices closed for Christmas Day** – Dec. 25
- **ISBE offices closed for New Year's Day** – Jan. 1
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in spring 2017** – Jan. 13, 2017 (See www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)

Those Who Excel

Meet Illinois Teacher of the Year Finalist Ricardo Castro of Elk Grove High School

Ricardo “Ricky” Castro talks openly about his involvement with gangs as a young teen in Chicago. He freely admits he was a bad student on the verge of choosing an entirely different path in life. Ricky



credits caring teachers who listened and encouraged him through those difficult years with helping him make decisions that positively influenced him and guided him to the path he ultimately chose to take. Ricky's parents were immigrants, and there wasn't much money. His early experiences with school were tainted by negative stereotypes, but as he says, “Having teachers that cared and challenged me, I learned how to commit to serious study and ask for assistance.” Those invaluable experiences were instrumental in his decision to become a teacher.

Ricky has now been a teacher for 10 years. He has been teaching English as a second language, English arts, and Spanish for the past three years at Elk Grove High School in Township High School District 214. He puts a strong emphasis on helping his students develop what he calls biliteracy. He believes that helping students develop a proficiency in multiple languages gives them skills that will serve them well throughout their lives. Under Ricky's careful guidance -- and his collaboration with colleagues -- 80 percent of Elk Grove's ninth-grade Latino English Learners qualified to move into "mainstream" courses in just one year.

He also teaches students about the importance of serving their community and its people. Many of his students are regular participants in various service projects, such as acting as formal mentors to their middle school peers who are considered at risk. They are also creating and staffing a free weeklong summer camp for K-5 students who do not reside in a park district.

Ricky works tirelessly to create academic and leadership experiences for his students that truly transcend the confines of the current definition of education. Ricky is inspiring students and adults alike to become active citizens and leaders in a democratic society. A parent shared this about Castro: "One of the most positive things that Mr. Castro has given my daughter is an unquenchable desire to be the best person that she to be. Mr. Castro has been teaching her to be a person of integrity, commitment, humility, and love. I am so glad that he teaches my daughter."

Ricky is one of our 10 finalists for Illinois Teacher of the Year, which we will name at the Those Who Excel banquet in Normal on Oct. 23.

Special Education Services

Applications Sought for U.S. Senate Youth Program and Hearst Scholarship

ISBE is seeking applicants for the 2016-17 U.S. Senate Youth Program and Hearst Scholarship. Information about the program is now available at www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/hearst.htm.

The program's first phase brings two students from each state to Washington, D.C., from March 4-11,

2017, to participate in the U.S. Senate Youth Program. Delegates will be immersed in Washington activities throughout their weeklong stay. The William Randolph Hearst Foundation will pay all expenses for the week, including transportation, hotel, and meals. The second phase awards both recipients a \$10,000 college scholarship. The Hearst Foundation requires that to obtain scholarship funds, a student must participate in the Washington Week program and use the funds within four years of enrollment at an accredited U.S. college or university. The student is also encouraged to take courses in history, political science, or related subjects as part of his or her undergraduate program.

In addition to the superintendent's mailing, applications are also available on ISBE's website at www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/42-60-hearst.pdf. ISBE must receive a hard copy containing original signatures no later than 4 p.m. on Oct. 5.

More information about this program is available at <http://ussenateyouth.org/> or by contacting Sally Veach, ISBE principal education consultant, at sveach@isbe.net or (217) 782-5589.

Every Student Succeeds Act

Frequently Asked Questions

A [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) document](#) is now available in order to address questions about transition issues and other inquiries regarding ESSA. If you are interested in commenting on this FAQ or if you have questions that are not answered within the document, please email essa@isbe.net using "FAQ" in the subject line. This FAQ will be updated periodically and we will notify districts when this occurs.

Round Two of Statewide Listening Tour

The Illinois State Board of Education, with assistance from Regional Offices of Education, is hosting a second round of listening tour meetings to collect feedback on ESSA. A series of meetings will be held across the state to provide overview information on ESSA and allow participants to share their ideas on the draft state plan.

For additional information and to download a detailed schedule, please visit www.isbe.net/essa/default.htm.

Data Analysis

Register for Employment Information Systems (EIS) 2017 Introductory Webinar

ISBE will launch Employment Information Systems (EIS) on Sept. 16 with innovative changes and updates designed to streamline the data submission process. The Data Analysis Division will be hosting an EIS webinar from 1:30-3 p.m. on Sept. 6 in order to introduce the system for school year 2017, explain any updates, and provide a data collection timeline. A question-and-answer session will also be held.

To register for the webinar, please visit <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8334121493815399940>.

For immediate EIS assistance, please contact the Data Analysis Division at (217) 782-3950 or email datahelp@isbe.net. For technical assistance with IWAS, please contact the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

EIS Salary Data Deadline Approaching

As a reminder, the 2015-16 employee salary data is due soon. **Please submit salary and other relevant employment data as soon as possible. EIS closes on Sept. 1.**

Data due by **Sept. 1** includes
SY 2016 Base Salaries
SY 2016 Employment and Position Records
SY 2016 Position End Dates
SY 2016 Benefits (if applicable)
SY 2016 Employment End Dates (if applicable)
SY 2016 Employment End Reason (if applicable)

All updates and changes to the system were explained in a webinar on May 25. This presentation is available for viewing at <http://www.isbe.net/eis/html/archived-meetings.htm#eis150506>.

The questions and answers from the May 25 webinar are also now available at

<http://www.isbe.net/eis/pdf/QAs/eis-salary-160525-qa.pdf>.

For step-by-step instructions on entering salary data using both EIS IWAS screens and batch templates, please reference the EIS Basics Course at <http://www.isbe.net/eis/html/training.htm>.

We hope these updates will better serve you as you continue entering salary data. As always, if you have any questions, please call the EIS Help Desk at (217) 782-3950 or email datahelp@isbe.net.

For technical assistance, please contact the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

English Language Learning

Annual State Bilingual Directors Meeting

The Illinois State Board of Education's Division of English Language Learning (DELL) will host its annual State Bilingual Directors Meeting on Sept. 15-16 at the Double-Tree by Hilton Chicago in Oak Brook. This two-day meeting is required for all directors of TBE/TPI and Title III (LIPLEPS/Immigrant Education) programs. The annual meeting allows directors around the state to connect and address topics related to the implementation of programs serving English Learners. This is also a forum of excellence where you can discuss issues that are relevant to emerging bilinguals with other directors and experts in the field.

A block of rooms is available for Sept. 14 and 15 at the rate of \$80, plus tax (single). Reservations must be made by **Aug. 23**. Please contact Patrick Singer at psinger@doubletreeoakbrook.com or at (630) 472-6057 and ask for the Directors Meeting group block.

There is NO registration fee for this event. Lodging, mileage, or per diem expenses may be included in either the district's LIPLEPS or TBE/TPI program budget under the improvement of instruction services line item, function 2210/300, in order for your district to charge these expenses to the grant as an approved activity. You must follow your school district travel policies to claim a reimbursement for the above meeting expenses. Please note that you cannot spend any LIPLEPS funds prior to Sept. 1.

Please contact DELL at (312) 814-3850 for technical assistance related to any programmatic issues or if you need assistance with revising/amending your fiscal year 2016 LIPLEPS or TBE/TPI program budget. For additional information, please see the DELL Newsletter at www.isbe.net/bilingual/ebroadcasts/2016-17/dell-newsletter-20160803.pdf.

Thomas Lay Burroughs Award

Nominations Sought for Award Honoring Outstanding School Board President

The Illinois State Board of Education invites you to nominate your local board president for the Thomas Lay Burroughs Award for the State's Outstanding School Board President.

This award was created in 1991 in memory of the late ISBE chairman and is presented each November at the Illinois Association of School Boards/ Illinois Association of School Administrators/ Illinois Association of School Business Officials conference in Chicago. The conference will be held Nov. 18-20 this year.

Nominations should be submitted by close of business on Friday, Oct. 7. You may email your nomination to Katherine Galloway at kgallowa@isbe.net. Please indicate "Burroughs Nomination" in the subject line of the email. If you have any questions, call Galloway at (217) 557-6626. For nomination information and format, please visit www.isbe.net/board/pdf/burroughs_award.pdf.

Grant Accountability & Transparency Act

Notice of State Award and Grant Agreement Pages in eGMS - NEW

In the next few days, a staggered roll-out of all state and federal grants that are online via the electronic Grants Management System will incorporate the Notice of State Award (NOSA) and Grant Agreement pages. Grants will be returned along with a separate IWAS communication. Specific conditions will be reflected as a result of the Fiscal Internal Control Questionnaire (ICQ) and Program Risk Assessment grantee responses. Per the requirements of the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA), please be advised that a required component prior to fiscal year 2017 grant execution is grantee acceptance of the

specific award conditions as well as the terms, conditions, assurances, and grant exhibits in the Grant Agreement.

IMPORTANT: ISBE is currently reviewing the specific conditions assigned to grantees as a result of the responses from the ICQ and Program Risk Assessments. ISBE is meeting with other state agencies to discuss the appropriate course of action to implement specific conditions in the NOSA, including evaluation of grantee risk and the necessity of imposing additional specific award conditions. Your organization will be kept advised of the decisions, adoption of administrative rules, and ISBE's implementation plan in this regard. Depending on the specific condition, you will be notified how you can provide evidence of your organization's corrective actions to ISBE or your state cognizant agency according to the timeframe indicated in the NOSA. If you have questions regarding the specific conditions and ISBE's implementation plan, please contact your grant consultant. All other inquiries can be directed to GATA@isbe.net

Grantees completing their GATA registration should have received an automated notification to complete the ICQ. Separately, each grantee was also required to login via the ISBE IWAS portal and complete the Programmatic Risk Assessment. The completion status of these important steps can be accessed at www.isbe.net/GATA/pdf/gata-grantee-status-report.pdf. If specific conditions are not present in the NOSA section, this indicates that either the ICQ and/or Program Risk Assessment has not been submitted and/or approved. Guidance for resolving grantee registration issues can be found at under the Prequalification and Registration Status header on the ISBE GATA website at www.isbe.net/GATA/default.htm.

Grantee Status Report

A new grantee status report has been created and can be accessed at www.isbe.net/GATA/default.htm by clicking on the "GATA Grantee Status Report" under the "Prequalification and Registration Status" tab. Please reference this link to assess your organization's completion of the GATA requirements needed for fiscal year 2017 grant execution. ISBE will update this frequently, so please refer back to this report for the latest information.

As reminder, each grantee must complete the following:

1. Registration – Complete on the GATA website at www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/default.aspx.
2. Fiscal Internal Control Questionnaire (ICQ) - After completion of the registration process, an automated email will provide a link to access the grantee's State of Illinois ICQ form, which must be completed and submitted.
3. Program Risk Assessment – Access via the IWAS login portal and choose the GATA Risk Assessment System. 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.

Grantee registration and submission of the ICQ and Program Risk Assessment are required to be completed one time by each grantee and are good for one year.

Please refer to the following data elements in the GATA Grantee Status report:

1. RCDT – Region-County-District-Type Code for each ISBE grantee.
2. Local Education Agency Name – Generic label to describe each ISBE grantee.
3. DUNS Number Used for Grantee Registration – This is the nine-digit Data Universal Numbering System number entered by the grantee at GATA registration.
4. Grantee Registration – Overall status of registration. If status is not indicated as "Complete," refer to the adjoining columns to remedy registration issues.

5. Illinois Secretary of State Standing – If status indicates "Not Applicable," no further action is necessary. For status indicating "Unknown," ISBE will notify you of appropriate action (if applicable).
6. SAM.gov Account Status – If status is "Expired" or blank, please refer to the guidance for activating or creating a SAM.gov account provided at <http://www.isbe.net/GATA/default.htm> under the Prequalification and Registration Status heading.
7. Fiscal Internal Control Questionnaire – If blank, please complete Grantee Registration. If status indicates "Unsubmitted," please complete and submit the ICQ.
8. Program Risk Assessment – If status indicates "Not Started" or "Started," please complete and submit via IWAS to ISBE.

School Health Issues

Back to School Webinar for School Nurses

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is holding a webinar at 2:30 p.m. on Sept. 12 for school nurses and other school health professionals who are responsible for assuring that students have obtained the necessary health records (immunizations and physical exams, eye exams, dental exams) for school attendance and for documenting compliance rates to ISBE.

It is also designed for school nurses responsible for implementing other school health measures. Webinar topics will include information on opioid and anaphylaxis reversal drugs, concussion prevention and treatment, health requirements for school staff, medical cannabis, medication administration, nursing regulations, and guidance on best practices. Participants will be able to submit questions both before and during the moderated webinar.

To register, please visit

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6146449596329415171>.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

Registration Underway for Upcoming Food Handler Training Workshops

The Illinois Department of Public Health's (IDPH) Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act requires all food service area employees or food handlers who work with open or unpackaged foods, food service equipment or utensils, or any food contact surfaces to receive an approved food handler training. Attendees who successfully complete this training and the required assessment will satisfy the IDPH's Food Handler Regulation.

This 2 ½-hour workshop is open to all Child Nutrition Program staff (NSLP, SBP, SFSP, CACFP).

Dates and Locations:

- Aug. 30 – Joliet (Evening)
- Aug. 31 – Rockford (Afternoon)
- Sept. 1 – Galesburg (Afternoon)

There are no registration fees for these workshops. For additional Food Handler Training information and to register, please visit www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/safety.htm. Locations tend to fill up quickly, so complete registration as soon as possible to secure your space.

If you have any questions, please contact Chad Martel at cmartel@isbe.net.

Funding and Disbursements

PA 99-0523 – District-Required FY 2016 GSA Expenditures for Special Ed Services

A review of the final FY 2016 state appropriations enacted for special education services reveals a shortfall of \$4 million to properly demonstrate state maintenance of fiscal effort in support of federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B – 611 funds, otherwise known as IDEA Part B Flow Through. PA 99-0523 permits ISBE to calculate each district's pro rata share of the shortfall to expend for special education services from General State Aid (GSA) paid in FY 2016.

In FY 2016, each district must expend from GSA the amount computed for the provision of special

education services as defined in Section 14-1.08. The amount for each district was computed using its final Dec. 1, 2014, special education child count in proportion to the total child count of the state, which can be accessed at www.isbe.net/funding/excel/pa99-0523-req-gsa-sped-expenditures-fy16.xlsx.

The type and provision of special education services as defined in Section 14-1.08 include expenditures for special schools, classes, housing (including residential facilities), special instruction, special reader service, braillists and typists for children with visual disabilities, sign language interpreters, transportation, maintenance, instructional material, therapy, professional consultant services, medical services only for diagnostic and evaluation purposes provided by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches to determine a child's need for special education and related services, psychological services, school social worker services, special administrative services, salaries of all required special personnel, and other special educational services (including special equipment for use in the classroom) required by the child because of his disability if such services or special equipment are approved by the State Superintendent of Education.

To document the expenditure of FY 2016 GSA funds for special education services, a district may reflect an expenditure entry locally that identifies the Fund, Special Education Function, and Object linked to GSA - Revenue Code 3001. Example: An entry of 10-1200-100-3001 denotes an expenditure from the Education Fund for instructional special education salaries paid from GSA.

Questions regarding this information may be directed to the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at (217) 782-5256.

In Brief

Grant Opportunities

- The application period for the **Read for Information Grant** funded by the Illinois School Library Media Association / Library Book Selection Service Endowment Fund is now open. At least 20 \$1,500 nonfiction grants will be awarded to school librarians doing a collaborative project with one or more staff members. Details about the grant and eligibility

requirements are available at the Endowment Fund website at www.lbssfund.org. The application deadline is Sept. 1.

Administrator Recognition

- Congratulations to **Dr. Robert McBride**, principal of Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville, for receiving the Illinois Principals Association's 2016 Reaching Out & Building Bridges Award for his work in creating ParentsMatterToo to provide parent education on teen risk behaviors and fight opioid addiction.

Upcoming Events

- The Center for Tax and Budget Accountability is holding its **Annual Fiscal Symposium** on Sept. 20. Illinois State Superintendent of Education Tony Smith, Ph.D., will present the keynote address. Dr. Smith will explain the role Illinois' K-12 education system plays in building a strong economy and how the budget uncertainty impacts state and local communities. For more information and to register, please visit <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ecv411xzbc6b099e&llr=onw87zaab>.
- The annual **2016 Statewide Transition Conference** will be held on Oct. 27-28 at the Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham. Registration is open until Sept. 23. This year's conference, titled "Stepping Stones of Transition," is for transition-aged youth and young adults with disabilities, their family members and teachers, vocational professionals, caregivers, health care professionals, college students pursuing careers in special education, and community advocates. Attendees are encouraged to register early and pay online to ensure full participation. For more information, please visit www.illinoistransitionconference.org/.

District Opportunities

- District Administration magazine will be accepting applications for the next cycle of **Districts of Distinction** from Nov. 1 to Dec. 7. Districts will be recognized in April 2017. For more information, please visit www.districtadministration.com/dod.

Educator Opportunities

- The Illinois Public Health Institute (IPHI) is offering a **P.E. Train the Trainer** opportunity. IPHI is seeking nine individuals to deliver trainings to physical educators in the southern and central regions of Illinois between October 2016 and June 2017. All trainers are required to first attend an orientation webinar from 2-5 p.m. on Sept. 20, as well as two day-long train-the-trainer sessions in Springfield from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sept. 23-24. Trainers will be compensated for their preparation, travel expenses, and training services. For more information, contact Sarah Chusid at (312) 850-4744, ext. 10 or sarah.chusid@iphionline.org.

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>.