



Weekly Message

Aug. 31, 2016

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello!

It has been a busy past couple of weeks for us at ISBE, as I know it has been in your districts. We have received so many great #ILBacktoSchool photos on social media and through [email](#). I love seeing colorful classrooms, teachers, and staff welcoming students back with school spirit, and students collaborating and engaging in innovative lessons. Thank you for sharing what back to school looks like in your districts; please continue sending photos our way!

If you have not checked our new [Back to School webpage](#) yet, now is the time. We have just added a Questions and Answers document to accompany the Back to School Webinar. You will also find two new Welcome Back videos: one for [administrators](#) and one for [families](#). I encourage you to share the videos with educators and families in your districts. The administrators' video highlights important updates for the 2016-17 school year, including the development of Illinois' state plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and our use of the SAT as the state's high school accountability exam. The video for families emphasizes key steps to get students on the pathway to success. Families are our partners in nurturing children's healthy development and education, so it is crucial that we are in dialogue and share resources with them.

We released the [first draft of Illinois' ESSA state plan](#) at the State Board meeting Aug. 25. The draft is a work in progress and your feedback is vitally important to us. We are hosting a second round of listening tours beginning Tuesday, Sept. 6, and I hope that you are able to attend the meetings and share your ideas and expertise. I pose two questions in my letter at the beginning of the draft that I encourage you to consider:

1. How might we best reconcile the variety of complex ideas we've heard so that our final plan focuses on eliminating inequity of opportunity and outcome in every Illinois public school district?
2. How can a common understanding of ESSA create effective collaboration among public, private, and philanthropic agencies so that all children in Illinois become self-sufficient, well-educated, healthy, and safe adults?

Please visit www.isbe.net/essa for more information and the complete schedule of listening tours.

At last week's Board meeting, we also released the [state-level preliminary Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers \(PARCC\) scores](#). As the new school year begins, we remain committed to equipping students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to successfully pursue higher education and to

Table of Contents

Those Who Excel	3
Grant Accountability & Transparency Act ..	3
Every Student Succeeds Act.....	5
School Business Services	5
U.S. Presidential Scholar Program	6
Nutrition and Wellness Programs.....	6
Rules and Waivers	9
State Board of Elections.....	9
Center for Performance	9
Title Grant Administration	10
Special Education Services	10
Data Analysis.....	11
In Brief.....	11

succeed in the 21st-century workforce. PARCC and the more rigorous Illinois Learning Standards are focused on preparation for what is to come after students graduate high school. The second year of PARCC data will provide teachers and families with valuable information around student progress and readiness.

In thinking about preparation for college and career, I would like to congratulate the nearly 90 students from across Illinois for their performance in National Students Taking Action with Recognition (STAR) Competitive Events at the 2015 Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) National Leadership Conference in San Diego, California. The theme of this year's conference was "Empowered." Illinois students were awarded medals in events including "Life Event Planning," "Culinary Arts," "Fashion Design," "Parliamentary Procedure," and "Advocacy." For a full list of winners, visit <http://fcclainc.org/programs/documents/2016IllinoisReport.pdf>.

Have a great rest of the 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>.

- **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>)
- **Deadline to submit U.S. Senate Youth Program Application** – Oct. 5 (www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/42-60-hearst.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>)
- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) and Part 650 (Charter Schools) – Public comment ends** – Oct. 24
- **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 Election Day** – Nov. 8
- **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 John Colucci of Percy Julian Middle School

John Colucci teaches language arts to seventh-graders at Percy Julian Middle School in Oak Park Elementary School District 97. One of John's



colleagues wrote, "One of John's greatest attributes is his passionate advocacy for his students. He ensures that every student has a voice in his classroom." He builds solid relationships with his students and cultivates their voices. John understands their individual learning skills and he personalizes his teaching so that every student is connected. His students respond with enthusiasm and excitement for learning.

John is a dedicated educator who demonstrates loyalty to his colleagues as well as his students. He is constantly collaborating with other teachers, working with them, listening to them, and creating with them. He has proven that he is a steadfast resource who will always find a way to help. His principal says, "John is the definition of a teacher leader. He has consistently provided leadership and guidance to new teachers in our building and most recently volunteered to switch grade levels in order to strengthen and build up the sixth-grade language arts curriculum."

His curiosity and love of learning guide him in his approach to teaching. His excitement for the subject generates excitement in his students and they are motivated to do their best in his class. Students carry the skills they learn from John into high school and beyond. He forges relationships with parents so they feel connected and informed about their child's education. John listens to parents and then uses their input to help students be the best they can be.

John says that "teaching is what makes the sun and moon rise for me—it gets my through my days." He didn't realize he wanted to be a teacher until he was an undergraduate research assistant for a Ph.D. candidate at Northwestern during his freshman year. The Ph.D. candidate told him "he was made" for teaching after he helped her research her dissertation about high school

English teachers and how they teach. That encouragement got John thinking in different ways about his life and the rest, as they say, is history.

John 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. 22.

Grant Accountability & Transparency Act

FY 2017 Indirect Cost Rates

In accordance with a Delegation Agreement between the U. S. Department of Education and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and pursuant to its authority under the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) and administrative rules, the Governor's Office of Management and Budget has granted ISBE an exception to the federal Uniform Guidance and GATA regarding the determination of indirect cost rates which may be utilized by all grantees that receive a state award or federal pass-through award for grant programs administered by ISBE.

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) may utilize either the indirect cost rate the LEA negotiates annually with ISBE (school districts) or the state-wide average indirect cost rate calculated by ISBE (Regional Offices of Education, Intermediate Service Centers, special education cooperatives, area vocational centers, charter schools, and university laboratory schools approved by ISBE). These LEAs will also utilize the ISBE-established indirect cost rates for state and federally funded grant programs administered by other state agencies.

Not-for-profit agencies, community/faith-based organizations, and for-profit entities may utilize the state-wide average indirect cost rate calculated by ISBE for all state and federal grant programs administered by ISBE. Colleges and Universities will be restricted to a maximum indirect cost rate of 8% or other indirect cost rate calculated by their cognizant federal agency, whichever is less, for state and federal grants administered by ISBE. These non-LEA entities may choose to negotiate a separate indirect cost rate to utilize for state and federally funded grant programs administered by other state agencies.

The indirect cost rates calculated by ISBE for LEAs and non-LEA entities are found at www.isbe.net/GATA/pdf/gata-indirect-rates-fy17.pdf.

If you are a non-LEA that needs information about applying for an alternate indirect cost rate through the State of Illinois Centralized Indirect Cost Rate System to utilize with other state agencies, go to www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/CentralizedIndirectCostSystem/Pages/default.aspx.

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

All fiscal year 2017 state and federal grants in the electronic Grants Management System will incorporate the new Notice of State Award (NOSA) and Grant Agreement pages. Specific conditions are reflected in the NOSA 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.

Every Student Succeeds Act

Draft of ESSA State Plan #1 Released

The draft of the Illinois’ ESSA State Plan #1 was presented to the Board at its meeting on Aug. 25. The draft is available at www.isbe.net/essa.

ESSA State Plan #1 provides information on accountability, assessments, and statewide system of support, among other topics, for all schools in Illinois. Throughout the draft, there are a series of questions on topics where ISBE requests additional insight from the field. ISBE encourages individuals to read the plan and share their ideas, critiques, and potential solutions.

When submitting comments, please include the name of individual and/or organization, section number, and page number. **All comments should be submitted to essa@isbe.net no later Sept. 30.**

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.

School Business Services

Capital Needs Assessment Survey

[Public Act 93-0489](#) requires the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Capital Development Board to file a comprehensive assessment report of the capital needs of all school districts with the General Assembly every two years. Jan. 1, 2017, is the due date of the next report.

ISBE is requesting all districts to complete and submit the Capital Needs Assessment Survey. This is a reminder the survey will be open until **Sept. 6**, full participation in the assessment will help ensure an accurate portrayal of the capital needs of all districts throughout the state.

On May 12, 2016, all district superintendents and regional superintendents were emailed a copy of the Capital Needs Assessment Survey along with a cover letter. If you did not receive a copy of the email, please contact ISBE.

Additional forms, if needed, can be accessed on either of the following websites: www.isbe.net/finance or www.cdb.state.il.us. Completed forms can be submitted by U.S. Mail to School Business Services, 100 North First St., Springfield, IL 62777-0001 or via email to finance1@isbe.net.

Further questions can be directed to Christine Kolaz, School Business Services, at (217) 785-8779.

U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

ISBE Accepting Nominations for U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

ISBE is seeking candidates for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. This program honors high school students based on their outstanding scholarship and promise of future success. ISBE is encouraging principals to nominate students who might not otherwise be nominated through the current SAT/ACT or arts recognition process.

All high school seniors graduating between January and June 2017 who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and who attend public, parochial or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible.

The 2017 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and will receive an expense-paid trip in June to Washington, D.C., where each honoree will be awarded a Presidential Scholars Medallion.

Principals should address the following questions in their nomination letters:

1. What about the student makes him or her stand out as having outstanding scholarship?
2. What special challenges or hurdles has this student overcome while still achieving high academic success?

Please submit nominations to ISBE, Office of Communications, 100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777. Nominations must be received by **Oct. 24**. For additional information about the program, visit www.ed.gov/psp.

U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career and Technical Education Nominations

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program now honors students on the basis of outstanding scholarship and demonstrated ability and accomplishment in Career and Technical Education (CTE) fields. Therefore, in addition to the general nominations, ISBE is also asking administrators, counselors, and teachers to nominate students from their jurisdiction to be included as candidates for recognition for excellence in career and technical education (CTE).

Administrators, counselors, and teachers may nominate **up to five CTE students** for consideration.

All high school seniors who are participants of a CTE program graduating between January and June of 2017, who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible. The CTE selection process will evolve over time, but, for now, candidates who are nominated and choose to apply, and whose applications are complete, will automatically become semifinalists. All 2017 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a ceremony in their honor in Washington, D.C.

To download and complete the nomination and application forms please visit, www.isbe.net/career/default.htm.

Please submit nominations and applications to Brian Houser, ISBE, College and Career Readiness Division, 100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777. Applications must be postmarked by Oct. 18.

For additional information about the program, visit www.ed.gov/psp.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

Breakfast After the Bell Program Requirement Begins SY 2017-18

Per [Public Act 99-0850](#), starting school year 2017-18, every public school in which at least 70 percent of the students were eligible for free or reduced-price lunches in October of the preceding year must operate a “breakfast after the bell program.” Breakfast after the bell means breakfast is provided to children after the instructional day has officially begun and does not prohibit schools from also providing breakfast before instructional day begins. Schools may choose whatever delivery model that best suits the students. Typical options include:

- **Breakfast in the classroom:** Food is delivered (by staff, students, or volunteers) to each classroom after school begins and students are permitted to eat in the classroom.

- **Grab and go:** Students pick up bagged or boxed breakfast from carts or specified areas and are permitted to eat in either designated areas or the classroom.
- **Second-chance breakfast:** An extended passing or breakfast period is offered in the cafeteria, following the first or second period of the day.
- **Other options include** serving breakfast during an early recess or outdoor lesson. As long as breakfast is offered to all students after the instructional day has begun, schools and districts have great flexibility in serving breakfast after-the-bell.

Assistance with determining whether or not your district meets the 70 percent threshold is available at www.isbe.net/nutrition/pdf/schools_mandated_operate_sbp.pdf.

State reimbursement to offset a portion of the cost of the meal is available if a site serves a reimbursable meal to a student eligible for a free meal and the site is enrolled in the Illinois Free Breakfast and Lunch Programs. Both state and federal reimbursement is available if a site enrolls in the School Breakfast Program (SBP).

Schools participating in the School Breakfast Program must inform families of the availability of breakfasts just prior to the beginning of the school year and throughout the school year via routine methods of communicating with families, such as website posting, weekly messages, public address system, etc.

Districts may be relieved from this breakfast after the bell requirement if they demonstrate either:

- 1) they are delivering a school breakfast effectively, as defined by 70 percent or more of the free and reduced-price students participating in the School Breakfast Program, or
- 2) due to circumstances specific to that school district, the expense reimbursement would not fully cover the costs of implementing and operating a breakfast after the bell program. District must submit cost analysis to district's board of education, district board holds public hearing, and district board passes a resolution that district cannot afford to operate a breakfast after the bell program. District must post date, time, place, and subject matter of meeting on its website; notify ISBE by emailing cnp@isbe.net at least 14 days prior to the hearing; and submit final resolution approving

the breakfast after the bell exemption to ISBE by emailing cnp@isbe.net upon passage.

New Rules Summary: Physical Fitness Assessment, Data Collection, Reporting

[Public Act 98-0859](#), signed into law on Aug. 4, 2014, created the Stakeholder and Expert Task Force on Physical Education (SETFPE) comprised of members representing organizations that represent physical education teachers; school officials; principals; health promotion and disease prevention advocates and experts; school health advocates and experts; and other experts with operational and academic expertise in the measurement of fitness. SETFPE was tasked with submitting recommendations to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) on physical fitness assessments as well as the collection and reporting of aggregate student fitness data. SETFPE submitted its recommendations to ISBE and after seeking public comment, ISBE adopted fitness assessment and data collection rules for Illinois schools ([Part 1, Section 1.425](#)) effective SY 2016-17.

Starting with school year 2016-17, schools must:

- Ensure that school personnel administering the assessments participate in **training** related to the proper administration and scoring of each of the four required FitnessGram assessments outlined below. At a minimum, staff must review the required administration manuals and it is recommended that staff also view training videos.
- Ensure district maintains **evidence** of individual school personnel's successful completion of the training and make it available to ISBE upon request.
- Establish procedures and protocols to ensure the **confidentiality** of individual student assessment results consistent with the requirements of the Illinois School Records Act and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.
- Begin administering, in the second semester and each year thereafter, the following **four FitnessGram assessments** (first semester assessment is optional and will not be reported):
 - for Aerobic Capacity – the PACER test (recommended) or Mile Run Test (alternate) or Brockport test (any of the adapted tests for aerobic functioning for students with disabilities) for students in grades 4-12 (Note: If your district chooses the alternate Mile Run Test, student height

- and weight will need to be collected in order to calculate healthy fitness zones.)
 - for Flexibility – the Back-Saver Sit and Reach test (recommended) or Trunk Lift test (alternate), or Brockport test (any of the adapted tests for flexibility or range of motion for students with disabilities) for students in grades 3-12;
 - for Muscular Endurance – the Curl-Up test or Brockport test (any of the adapted tests for strength and endurance for students with disabilities) for students in grades 3-12; and
 - for Muscular Strength – the Push-Up test or Brockport test (any of the adapted tests for strength and endurance for students with disabilities) for students in grades 3-12.
- By each district's established date, **collect** the second semester aggregate data outlined below from its schools. The district in turn must report results electronically to ISBE through the Student Health Data Section in IWAS by May 1 (possibly June 30*) of each year. **ISBE has released for public comment, through Oct. 24, [a proposed amendment](#) to Part 1 of Rules that changes reporting deadline to June 30.*
 - number of students tested by grade (5, 7 and 10 only) and gender;
 - number of students that achieved a healthy fitness zone by grade (5, 7 and 10 only) and gender;
 - number of students that were identified as needing improvement by grade (5, 7 and 10 only) and gender; and
 - for aerobic capacity only, number of students that were identified as needing improvement-health risk by grade (5, 7 and 10 only) and gender.

For further assistance, **including links to training manuals and videos**, please visit our [Q & A document](#).

Illinois to Receive Funding From USDA for Kitchen Equipment Grants

The USDA has awarded Illinois with \$1,127,625 for kitchen equipment grants for school year 2016-17! These funds will allow SFAs to purchase equipment to

serve healthier meals that meet the updated meal patterns, with emphasis on more fruits and vegetables in school meals, improve food safety, and expand access.

ISBE is required to competitively award equipment assistance grants to eligible SFAs participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Higher priority must be given to high-need schools (i.e., schools in underserved areas, schools with limited access to other resources, and age of food service equipment) where 50 percent or more of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced price meals.

ISBE plans to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) in September with proposals being due in late October. The release will be announced on the ISBE's [RFP website](#), via email to NSLP sponsors, and in next month's Outlook newsletter.

If you have questions regarding this USDA/ISBE Equipment Grant, contact Shawn Backs at sbacks@isbe.net.

New Dates and Locations Added to Food Handler Training Schedule

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 (National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Summer Food Service Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Illinois Free Lunch and Breakfast Program).

Dates and Locations:

- Sept. 1 – Galesburg (Afternoon)
- Sept. 15 – Springfield (morning) NEW!
- Oct. 5 – Mattoon (afternoon) NEW!
- Oct. 6 – Carterville (afternoon) NEW!

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.

Rules and Waivers

Invitation to Comment on Rules

Two sets of proposed amendments recently reviewed by ISBE are now available for public comment. The proposals and a summary of the issues involved have been posted at www.isbe.net/rules; choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net. The public comment period ends June 13.

The rulemakings are:

- Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)
- Part 650 (Charter Schools)

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that five sets of amendments recently adopted by ISBE became effective Aug. 9. Changes have been posted at www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm. Please choose “Rules Currently in Effect” and scroll to the Part number.

Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision): See Sections 1.77, 1.79, 1.700, 1.720, 1.Appendix A, 1.Appendix D

Part 20 (Standards for Endorsements in Elementary Education): See Section 20.10

Part 25 (Educator Licensure): See Sections 25.37, 25.40, 25.60, 25.72, 25.97, 25.99, 25.110, 25.115, 25.120, 25.125, 25.127, 25.130, 25.140, 25.142, 25.145, 25.147, 25.155, 25.160, 25.165, 25.311, 25.335, 25.337, 25.345, 25.355, 25.360, 25.365, 25.411, 25.425, 25.720

Part 26 (Standards for Endorsements in Early Childhood Education and in Elementary Education): See Section 26.300

Part 27 (Standards for Endorsements in Specific Teaching Fields): See Sections 27.10, 27.350, 27.420, 27.425.

State Board of Elections

Mock Election Education Materials Available Online for Teachers

The State Board of Elections, along with the Illinois State Board of Education, is once again sponsoring a mock election program to help schools teach students about the election process.

State Board of Elections staff has revised and updated the studies for this year, and the programs have been placed on their website. The entire study course can be downloaded and printed for use by any teacher who wishes to use the materials.

“Mock Election 2016” is the program designed for fourth- through 12th-grade students, and “Let’s Vote” is for kindergarten through third-grade students.

To access these programs, go to www.elections.il.gov/, click on the “Educator” tab at the top of the page and then click on the “Educational Tools” link on the right side of the page.

Center for Performance

2017 School Technology Revolving Loan Program

The fiscal year 2017 School Technology Revolving Loan Program (STRLP) application materials for eligible districts and schools are now available at www.isbe.net/ed-technology/html/revolving_loan.htm.

This year the loan is for school districts serving grades 9-12. Applications will be accepted through Dec. 1. The loans will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. The STRLP is a three-year loan with a 2 percent interest rate. The amount that each district is eligible to apply for is listed under “Loan Eligibility Listing” found at www.isbe.net/ed-technology/pdf/strlp-elig-listing-fy17.pdf.

5Essentials Learning Survey

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will again administer the [Illinois 5Essentials Survey](#) this year. Teachers, students, and parents will be able to complete the survey Nov. 16 through Jan. 16, 2017. The survey is required for districts that did not participate in last year’s survey or administer an

alternative survey. If your district completed the 5Essentials during the 2015-16 school year, it may -- but is not required -- to administer the survey in the 2016-17 school year. The 5Essentials Survey will be available at no cost for all participants.

To indicate that your district will participate in the 5Essentials during the 2016-17 school year, whether you are electing or [required](#) to participate, please complete this [form](#). Because the survey window is earlier than last year, the deadline to complete the aforementioned form is Oct. 24. Make sure that your educator and student information is updated and valid, as the data required for rostering students and teachers will be pulled from the Student Information System (SIS) and the Employment Information System (EIS), respectively.

For questions regarding the survey, please call (217) 782-3950 or email 5Essentials@isbe.net.

Title Grant Administration

Annual Title I Directors Conference Sept. 19-21 in Springfield

The Illinois Association of Title I Directors (IATD), in cooperation with ISBE, is hosting the annual Title I Directors Conference on Sept. 19-21 at the Crowne Plaza, 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield.

The conference begins with a new directors' preconference with simultaneous opportunities for existing grant administrators to receive individual technical assistance on their grants the afternoon of Sept. 19. The conference officially begins Sept. 20 with a kickoff by ISBE Title Grants Division Administrator Melina Wright to provide information on the ESSA State Plan. Numerous breakout sessions hosted by ISBE members and collaborating individuals will be offered Tuesday and Wednesday.

Tuesday's lunch keynote address will be by Dr. Tony Frontier, an award-winning educator, author, and consultant who works with schools to improve curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Wednesday morning's keynote address will be by Principal Baruti Kafele, who is an internationally renowned education speaker and best-selling author whose mission is to close the attitude gap. The conference will close with assessment and accountability updates.

Registration information is available at www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1863538. A draft agenda is available at <http://iatd.net/Files/94/IATD%202016%20Fall%20Workshop%20Tentative%20Agenda.pdf>.

Special Education Services

Back To School Updates: Secondary Transition

Secondary Transition Webinar

ISBE has updated the Secondary Transition webinar. This webinar is located on the Secondary Transition webpage and is divided into sections that correspond with the Indicator 13 rubric. The webinar may be accessed at www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/indicator13-st-spp-req.htm.

Indicator 13 Scoring Rubric

ISBE has not made any revisions to the Indicator 13 scoring rubric for this year and will continue to use it for audits of Secondary Transition. The Indicator 13 Data Verification Rubric and additional Indicator 13 resources may be accessed at www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/indicator13.htm.

Prioritization of Urgent Needs (PUNS)

ISBE has recently updated the document that lists the Independent Service Agencies by regions across the State of Illinois, the services that each agency offers to families, and contact information. Families will then have access to the most current information. This document is at www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/puns.htm.

Determining Education Environment for Students with Disabilities Participating in DRS Secondary Transitional Experience Programs (STEP)

This document with accompanying resources has been updated for IEP teams to assist in the determination of educational environments when completing the Education Services and Placement page of an IEP for students participating in a STEP program. This document is available under the Resources tab at www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/indicator13.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.

In Brief

Grant Opportunities

- Action for Healthy Kids is accepting **School Grants for Healthy Kids** applications from Illinois schools with active parents and PTAs for the 2016-17 school year. The deadline is Sept. 16. Visit actionforhealthykids.org/grants for more information.
- 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. 15.

Upcoming Events

- The Center for Tax and Budget Accountability is holding its **Annual Fiscal Symposium** on Sept. 20. ISBE Sup 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>.

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>.