



# Weekly Message

**Sept. 7, 2016**

## Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

For those of you welcoming students back this week for the 2016-17 school year, good luck! I know how hard you have worked this summer to make sure the teachers, staff, students, and families in your districts start the school year off strong and I greatly appreciate your commitment.

Tomorrow, Sept. 8, is International Literacy Day. I encourage you to use the beginning of the school year to emphasize the importance of literacy development with the families in your districts. Reading connects students with the world around them and opens doors to opportunities. In my [Welcome Back Video for Families](#), I highlight the benefits of cultivating good reading habits early on. You can find literacy resources to share with the families in your districts on our [Back to School webpage](#). Use #ILreads on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to tell us what the schools in your district are doing to celebrate International Literacy Day.

It is also important that students feel valued and supported in their school communities. Safe and healthy learning environments are crucial to student development. Our [Comprehensive System of Learning Supports webpage](#) has tools that will help you establish a positive school climate. Schools can play a critical role in suicide prevention as well. September marks National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. I encourage you to visit our [Suicide Prevention webpage](#) for resources and information about how to request a copy of the Illinois Association of School Boards' Model Suicide Prevention Policy.

More educators, schools, and districts across Illinois have been recognized for their great work in the past couple of weeks. Prairie Grove Consolidated School District received the 2016 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The district, one of only two school districts in the country to have received this award, was honored in an Aug. 26 [ceremony](#) at the Pentagon for its exceptional support of National Guard and Reserve employees.

Four Illinois educators received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching for their outstanding leadership in mathematics and science education:

- Catherine Ditto, a sixth-grade teacher at Burley Elementary School in Chicago, for grades K-6 mathematics;
- Michael Fumagalli, a former science teacher at East Leyden High School and current dean at Glenbard East High School in Franklin Park, for grades 7-12 science;

### Table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Those Who Excel .....                          | 3  |
| Grant Accountability & Transparency Act..      | 3  |
| Every Student Succeeds Act .....               | 5  |
| Charter Schools .....                          | 5  |
| Special Education Services .....               | 6  |
| Federal and State Monitoring.....              | 6  |
| Illinois Green Ribbon Schools .....            | 7  |
| Illinois Classroom Connectivity Initiative ... | 7  |
| U.S. Presidential Scholar Program .....        | 8  |
| Nutrition and Wellness Programs.....           | 9  |
| Rules and Waivers .....                        | 11 |
| State Board of Elections.....                  | 11 |
| Center for Performance .....                   | 11 |
| In Brief.....                                  | 12 |

- Lisa Nicks, a former math teacher at Thornton Township High School in Harvey, for grades 7-12 mathematics; and
- James O'Malley, a fourth-grade teacher at Thomas A. Edison Elementary School in Morton Grove, grades K-6 science.

The four award recipients will receive \$10,000 from the National Science Foundation and will be honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. For more information about the honorees, visit [PAEMST's webpage](#).

Lastly, Todd Burleson of Hubbard Woods School in Winnetka was named 2016 Librarian of the Year by School Library Journal in recognition of his outstanding achievements as a K-12 library professional, excellent use of 21st-century learning tools, and dedication to engaging children and teens. Todd transformed his library into an “IDEA lab,” an adaptable space where students are encouraged to explore the world around them through project-based learning. Learn more about his work [here](#).

Congratulations to these educators, schools, and districts! I look forward to learning more about the achievements across the state as the school year continues.

Keep up the great work!

Tony

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### **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>.

- **Informational Webinar - Illinois Classroom Connectivity Initiative** — Sept. 13-14 (<https://cc.readytalk.com/r/wup8wlkcl4wa&eom> & <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/o9cmvo7v0vwi&eom>)
- **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](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/42-60-hearst.pdf))
- **Deadline to submit comments regarding ESSA State Plan Draft #1** – Oct. 7 ([www.isbe.net/essa](http://www.isbe.net/essa))
- **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](http://www.isbe.net/sfms/budget/default.htm))
- **ISBE offices closed for Election Day** – Nov. 8
- **ISBE offices closed for Veterans Day** – Nov. 11
- **State Board of Education Meeting** – Nov. 18 (<http://www.isbe.net/board/pdf/2016-board-meetings.pdf>)
- **ISBE offices closed for Thanksgiving** – Nov. 24-25
- **FY17 NCLB/ESSA Monitoring Instrument** – Nov. 30 (available Sept. 30)
- **FY17 NCLB/ESSA Title I Comparability Analysis** – Nov. 30 (available Sept. 30)
- **State Board of Education Meeting** – Dec. 15 (<http://www.isbe.net/board/pdf/2016-board-meetings.pdf>)
- **ISBE offices closed for Christmas Day** – Dec. 26
- **ISBE offices closed for New Year's Day** – Jan. 2, 2017
- **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](http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm) for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)

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## **Those Who Excel**

### **Meet Illinois Teacher of the Year Finalist Nichole Folkman of Hartsburg-Emden CUSD 21**

Nichole Folkman has been teaching English at Hartsburg-Emden Community Unit School District 21 for 10 years. Her nominator wrote that “Nichole has a wonderful rapport with people of all ages, especially teenagers. Her ability to connect with students and her talent at teaching fundamental concepts are both truly worthy of recognition.” She has played an instrumental role in finding and supporting strategies that help all students across the district. Nichole’s involvement on the district’s Problem Solving Team and Leadership Team has proven her to be a true teacher-leader.



Hartsburg-Emden is a rural district, and Nichole is the only English teacher for high school students. Her commitment to students is legendary. One of her colleagues explained it this way: “Nichole is committed to doing, not what is the easiest for her, but what is the best for her students.” She has created a classroom library, which has more than 1,500 books and is open to students during the summer. Nichole eagerly shares ideas and her experiences with other teachers and attends as many professional development opportunities as she possibly can. She encourages other teachers, mentors young teachers who are new to the profession, and embraces teaching with a true passion.

Nichole has an innate ability to keep her students actively engaged and truly vested in learning. Described as firm but fair, Nichole builds trusting relationships with her students and they know they can count on her to guide them on the right paths. One of Nichole’s teaching strengths that engages students is her ability to help them think beyond high school. She ties schoolwork and real life experiences together in meaningful ways so students can grow and succeed once they leave her classroom and the halls of high school. In their recommendation letter, several of Nichole’s students wrote this about her: “We can

honestly say that Mrs. Folkman’s teaching has prepared us not only for college, but for the future.” She brings literature to life and the depth of her knowledge about books inspires her students and leaves them a little in awe of her!

Nichole 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.

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## **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 that 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 statewide 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 statewide 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 percent 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](http://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](http://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 GATA, please be advised that a required component prior to FY 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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 FY 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](http://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.

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### ***Every Student Succeeds Act***

#### **ESSA State Plan #1 Reader’s Guide Available; Comment Submission Deadline Extended**

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](http://www.isbe.net/essa). A [Reader’s Guide](#) has also been made available to help better understand and form questions regarding the ESSA State Plan draft.

The draft provides information on accountability, assessments, and statewide system of support, among other topics, for all schools in Illinois. There are a series of questions on topics throughout the plan 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](mailto:essa@isbe.net) no later Oct. 7.**

#### **Round Two of Statewide Listening Tour – October date added**

ISBE, with assistance from Regional Offices of Education, is hosting a second round of listening tour meetings to collect feedback on ESSA. Meetings are currently being 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](http://www.isbe.net/essa/default.htm).

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### ***Charter Schools***

#### **Non-Curricular Health and Safety Requirements**

The Non-Curricular Health and Safety Requirements Applicable to Charters have been updated effective Sept. 1 and have been posted to [www.isbe.net/charter](http://www.isbe.net/charter). ISBE advises charter schools and charter school authorizers to evaluate their charter agreements to ensure full compliance with Public Act 99-0325. In addition to the Non-Curricular Health and Safety Requirements, charter schools remain subject to all federal statutory and regulatory requirements applicable to public schools as well as any section of the Illinois School Code and its implementing regulations made expressly applicable to charter schools by the Charter Schools Law.

Questions should be directed to [charter@isbe.net](mailto:charter@isbe.net) or call Charter Schools at (217-524-4832).

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## Special Education Services

### Illinois LRE Data Cohort 7

The ISBE Special Education Services Division is accepting applications from districts that are interested in participating in the Seventh LRE Data Cohort, an opportunity for engagement in long-range planning and a facilitated district-level data-driven improvement process regarding supports and services for students with individualized education programs (IEPs) in the general education environment for 80 percent or more of the school day.

The nature and purpose of the LRE Data Cohort is to provide districts with a process to analyze and synthesize their quantitative and qualitative data to fulfill the core belief of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), in which students with disabilities who have IEPs are educated to the fullest extent in the general education environment with their non-disabled grade level peers. District senior leaders will assemble a diverse leadership team to participate in three working seminars over a period of 12 months; the first session will take place in December. Details can be found at [www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/lre-data-cohort.htm](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/lre-data-cohort.htm).

District senior leaders who are interested in the Illinois LRE Data Cohort 7 will be supported by ISBE staff through conference calls, webinars, seminars, and on-site technical assistance. To apply and be considered for the LRE Data Cohort 7 process, please contact Andrea Shryock at (217) 782-5589 or via email at [ashryock@isbe.net](mailto:ashryock@isbe.net) by Oct. 3.

### Expanded and Equitable Focused Monitoring

The reauthorization of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) has ushered in a significant opportunity to reexamine the way states IDEA. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) now requires State Education Agencies to give greater weight to academic indicators than to other indicators; to use additional measures to meaningfully differentiate among schools; and to assist districts in improving conditions for learning. Furthermore, ED's Office of Special Education Programs advises the formation of a State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) that builds the capacity of school districts to improve results for students with disabilities. The SSIP has as its focus an emphasis on

improved outcomes over simple compliance and advocates the use of tiered interventions, targeted strategies, and inclusionary practices in general education to begin to close the achievement gap between students with disabilities and their grade level peers without IEPs. This sharpened focus on student performance and students' ability to transition successfully to a career, training, or college will result in a statewide monitoring effort that will encompass the specifics of ESSA and SSIP.

ISBE's current Focused Monitoring program, through which districts are held accountable for the placement of students with disabilities inside the general education environment, has entered a period of adjustment and recalibration; thus, ISBE will not be selecting districts and schools using the means of focused monitoring to address educational environment (EE01). However, the districts and schools that are completing the Year of Correction and Year of Change will continue to be monitored over the next two years.

During the 2016-17 school year, the Special Education Division will enhance the focused monitoring program to incorporate results-driven accountability, the requirements of the ESSA, and the tightly interrelated vision, mission, and goals of ISBE.

Details of this enhancement are in the discussion stage and will be published in the near future. Questions or comments should be directed to Robert J. Kroll, division supervisor, ISBE Special Education Services Division in Chicago, at (312) 814-5560 or [rkroll@isbe.net](mailto:rkroll@isbe.net).

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## Federal and State Monitoring

### NCLB/ESSA Monitoring Instrument and Title I Comparability

The FY 2017 No Child Left Behind/Every Student Succeeds Act (NCLB/ESSA) Monitoring Instrument will be available for completion and submission in the IWAS system **beginning Sept. 30**. The due date is Monday, Nov. 30.

All districts receiving NCLB/ESSA funding are required to submit the document every year. As before, the previous year's information will be imported to the document, and the district should

ensure its accuracy before submitting. Each “Comment/Proof Indicator” will need to have a comment that identifies the documents that support your answers or clarifies your “yes,” “no,” or “N/A” response. You will not be able to submit the form without providing an answer in each box.

There is a sample list of comments or proof indicators for each question on the Federal and State Monitoring website at [www.isbe.net/ea/word/proof\\_indicators.doc](http://www.isbe.net/ea/word/proof_indicators.doc).

The Title I Comparability analysis will be available for completion and submission in the IWAS system **beginning Sept. 30.**

Any new Title I directors, coordinators, or their staff who work with the Comparability document are encouraged to attend the **Title I Directors’ Conference in Springfield at the Crowne Plaza on September 19– 21** this year. A training session for the NCLB/ESSA Title I Comparability document is being presented.

Districts that are “exempt” will continue to select the “Exempt” radio button and then “Submit.” Their submittal requirements will have been met when the superintendent submits it.

An updated “Comparability User’s Guide” for FY 2017 is located on the menu bar of the comparability application and on our [Federal and State Monitoring website](http://www.isbe.net/ea/word/proof_indicators.doc).

All districts receiving Title I funds must complete the document. Failure to comply will result in frozen program funds and a recovery of expenditures of Title I funds in buildings where they are determined to be non-comparable.

Questions concerning the Title I Comparability or the Monitoring Instrument should be directed to Federal and State Monitoring at (217) 782-7970 or [FSM@isbe.net](mailto:FSM@isbe.net).

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## **Illinois Green Ribbon Schools**

### **Applications Available for Illinois Green Ribbon Schools Program**

The Illinois Green Ribbon Schools program recognizes schools that are leading the way to promote sustainability and environmental education. Working in partnership ISBE, USGBC-Illinois is accepting applications from schools that integrate best practices in energy, water and waste management, healthy school environments, and environmental education. Winning applications for the Illinois Green Ribbon program demonstrate progress and achievements in each area of the three pillars:

1. Reduce environmental impact and costs;
2. Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff; and
3. Provide environmental education, which teaches many disciplines, and is especially good at effectively incorporating STEM, civic skills, and green career pathways.

Applications are scored by a panel of individuals with strong backgrounds in the three pillars. The top scoring schools are submitted to the U.S. Department of Education’s Green Ribbon Schools Program for consideration at the national level.

Click [here](http://www.usgbc-illinois.org/index.php?s=green+ribbon) to complete the 2017 Green Ribbon Schools application. For more information, visit [www.usgbc-illinois.org/index.php?s=green+ribbon](http://www.usgbc-illinois.org/index.php?s=green+ribbon).

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## **Illinois Classroom Connectivity Initiative**

### **Register for Upcoming Sept. 13 & 14 Informational Webinars**

ISBE has partnered with the nonprofit organization EducationSuperHighway to ensure every classroom in Illinois has access to high-speed broadband that can support digital learning. As part of the initiative, members of the EducationSuperHighway team will provide - at no cost - the expert resources and time needed to upgrade district broadband networks to scalable, cost-effective infrastructure, and to increase bandwidth to meet growing demands.

To claim a spot in the Illinois Classroom Connectivity Initiative, district technology directors, technology coordinators or equivalent staff members must register

for one of the two upcoming informational webinars using the links below. During the webinar, participants will receive additional information about the Classroom Connectivity Initiative and learn how districts can take advantage of the free broadband upgrade support services from EducationSuperHighway's team of network and procurement experts.

**Dates and Registration:**

- Sept. 13 at 12:30 p.m.  
<https://cc.readytalk.com/r/wup8wlkcl4wa&eom>
- Sept. 14 at 11:30 a.m.  
<https://cc.readytalk.com/r/o9cmvo7v0vwi&eom>

Questions should be directed to Elle Patterson at [elle@educationsuperhighway.org](mailto:elle@educationsuperhighway.org).

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### **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](http://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 in 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](http://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](http://www.ed.gov/psp).



## Nutrition and Wellness Programs

### Healthier Meals Cooking Classes Offered for Nutrition Programs Staff

Registration is underway for Healthier Meals Cooking Classes, which are offered through ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division.

Those working with the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), and the School Breakfast Program are all welcome to attend the classes, which are partially funded with a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Team Nutrition Grant. ISBE administers the federal programs in Illinois.

The child nutrition program classes are free and available at Kendall College Culinary School in Chicago, Lincoln Land Community College Culinary Institute in Springfield, and Kaskaskia College Culinary Arts in Centralia. There are nearly 30 classes scheduled from September through December, covering three different levels of techniques and skills. For more information, a schedule of classes, and registration, visit <http://isbe.net/nutrition/default.htm> or <http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnsclendar/asp/eventlist.asp>. Space is limited. If you have any questions, call ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division at (217) 782-2491.

### 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 the 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](http://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.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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) composed 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 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 the 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 school food authorities (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 NSLP. Higher priority must be given to high-need schools (e.g., 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](mailto:sbacks@isbe.net).

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## 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](http://www.isbe.net/rules); choose "Proposed Rules and Amendments." Please submit any comments or suggestions to [rules@isbe.net](mailto:rules@isbe.net). The public comment period ends Oct. 24.

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](http://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.

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## State Board of Elections

### Mock Election Education Materials Available Online for Teachers

The State Board of Elections, along with ISBE, 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 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students; "Let's Vote" is for kindergarten through third-grade students.

To access these programs, go to [www.elections.il.gov/](http://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.

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## 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](http://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](http://www.isbe.net/ed-technology/pdf/strlp-elig-listing-fy17.pdf).

## 5Essentials Learning Survey

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 and the Employment Information System, respectively.

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

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## In Brief

### Upcoming Events

- USGBC-Illinois and the Center for Green Schools invite communities to take action with schools for the fourth annual **Green Apple Day of Service** on Sept. 24. K-12 students, teachers, and administrators are encouraged to plan a school sustainability project and work with community volunteers to create positive environmental change. Each school will identify a low- or no-cost environmental project that fulfills an unmet need such as planting school gardens, cleanups, e-waste, or recycling. Learn more and find project ideas and tool kits at [greenapple.org](http://greenapple.org). Sign up and be assigned a local project mentor at [usgbc-illinois.org/events/green-apple/](http://usgbc-illinois.org/events/green-apple/).

## 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](http://actionforhealthykids.org/grants) for more information.

## 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>.