



Weekly Message

Sept. 21, 2016

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

Thank you for all the amazing work you are doing for our students. Although it's early in the year, I've already seen students, teachers, and administrators doing great work!

Last week, we had a kickoff call for our statewide Lead Higher Initiative work. The Lead Higher Initiative is a consortium created in April 2015. It includes Equal Opportunity Schools, College Board, International Baccalaureate, and lead philanthropic partner the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. Illinois is the first Lead Higher state, thanks to the committed leadership in districts across the state to increase enrollment and outcomes in Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. Equal Opportunity Schools, our partner in this work, is focused on ensuring that all students have the opportunity to succeed in challenging high school courses with a focus on AP and IB.

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Twenty-one school districts have increased AP and IB participation and outcomes by explicitly recruiting historically underrepresented students who have demonstrated potential to succeed in AP or IB. These districts are building a community of practice focused on equity and access in AP and IB. Our goal is to get all the students who are “missing” from these existing course enrolled and supported while we continue to expand these courses statewide. We hope to support and transform existing programs in the state by heeding the lessons learned by these leading districts. We want new programs to launch without gaps in student participation.

Districts are doing specific outreach and creating new ways to engage. I encourage you to watch these powerful videos that include student voices and some serious teacher enthusiasm!

- [Homewood-Flossmoor High School District 233](#)
- [Lake Park High School District 108](#)
- [Leyden High School District 212](#)

Our State Board retreat last Wednesday and Thursday was a very full two days. The main focus of our time was spent in dialogue about defining college and career readiness. The Board adopted a working definition to be shared at Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan listening tour meetings. ([See page 17.](#)) Your feedback and input on the whole plan -- and the college and career readiness definition -- are essential. Thank you for all that you've already added and please keep doing outreach to get more people involved.

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to address the issue of education funding in Illinois at the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability meeting. I continue to appreciate the efforts underway to design a system of funding public education that provides all children in Illinois a high-quality education. I encouraged participants to lead from the “WHY” as we work on the “how” and the “what” of the mechanics.

I remain hopeful and I'm encouraged by the work I see students doing across the state.

Enjoy the rest of your 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 submit U.S. Senate Youth Program Application** – Oct. 5 (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)
- **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. 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 for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)

Those Who Excel

Meet Illinois Teacher of the Year Finalist Ted Houpt of Danville CSD 118

Edward "Ted" Houpt is proud of the fact that his entire career as an educator has been at Danville High School in Danville Consolidated School District 118 for 27 years.



Ted's father introduced him to the wonders of history when Ted was in third grade and the family visited Washington, D.C. That trip awoke a passion in Ted that would ultimately become his profession. He became convinced that he could share his enthusiasm and joy for the richness of

history -- not just the events, but the people behind the events. Clearly, he has exceeded his goal as is evident by a former student who says, "If I had to name a single person who is most responsible for the path my life has taken, it would have to be Mr. Houpt. I can attribute the changes in myself almost solely to the influence of Mr. Houpt's teaching, mentorship, coaching, and general presence in my life during my years in high school and beyond."

Ted is described as a true leader within the school, the district, and the community. He continuously advocates for teachers and is instrumental as a mentor to new teachers. Ted does not discuss retirement or summer breaks because he never stops evolving and learning. He is improving his teaching skills so that his students get

the best education he can give them. He brings history to life and he challenges his students to think in a deep, critical way rather than just memorizing dates and facts. A colleague described Ted's teaching by saying, "His ability to link the past to student's own lives allows each student in his class to be fully engaged as if they are on their own personal journey through history."

His Modern World Issues class allows students to learn about the world they are living in and gives them an opportunity to study the present-day challenges facing global society. He also coaches tennis and boys varsity basketball. Ted sponsors a Local History Club that gives students an opportunity to go on monthly outings to learn about the history and heritage of Danville. No matter what Ted is doing, he is always learning and always thinking of new ways to help his students succeed.

Ted 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.

State Funding and Forecasting

FY 2017 General State Aid Claim is Final

The fiscal year 2017 General State Aid (GSA) claim has been completed and is now final. Districts may view their calculation of entitlement and payment schedule in [GSA Inquiry](#). In FY 2017, districts receive the greater of (A) their FY 2016 payment plus a share of the new \$250 million equity grant pool or (B) their FY 2017 GSA claim. For those districts where option A is the greater amount, the difference between FY 2017 claim and the larger FY 2016 payment plus equity grant appears in the calculation of entitlement as the Stop/Loss Adjustment. This portion of the claim was first applied in the payment made Aug. 20 and will continue throughout the year. All portions of GSA payments will appear in FRIS as revenue code 3001.

If you have questions about your GSA claim, you are welcome to contact staff in the State Funding and Forecasting Division. Please call (217) 782-0249 or email Ethelene Ferdinand at eferdina@isbe.net.

Grant Accountability & Transparency Act

FY 2017 Indirect Cost Rates- REVISED

In accordance with a Delegation Agreement between the U.S. Department of Education and 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 restricted 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 restricted indirect cost rates for state and federally funded grant programs administered by other state agencies. Therefore, LEAs do not need to take any further action in order to establish or utilize an indirect cost rate for any state or federally funded grant program administered by any state agency

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. However, these entities must negotiate a separate indirect cost rate or select another indirect cost rate option through the State of Illinois Centralized Indirect Cost Rate System (linked below) in order to claim an indirect cost reimbursement for state and federally funded grant programs administered by other state agencies.

The restricted 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 FY 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.

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 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 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.
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

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. The final meeting of the tour is Oct. 5 in Sycamore.

For additional information and to download a detailed schedule, please visit <http://isbe.net/essa/>.

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. 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 is 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 no later than Oct. 7.**

College and Career Readiness

Dual Credit Survey

In partnership with the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) is conducting a survey on dual credit throughout the state. With your input, ICCB can assess the effectiveness of creating postsecondary master’s programs and certificates to assist high school teachers with obtaining the proper credentials to teach dual credit courses. Survey responses allow ICCB to continue to improve dual credit offerings in high schools and support students who seek to participate in dual credit coursework. The survey should only take approximately fifteen minutes and your responses are completely confidential.

Any questions regarding the survey can be directed to Dr. Ashley Becker at Ashley.becker@illinois.gov.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this important endeavor. Your input is greatly appreciated!

Please complete the following survey no later than Oct. 14:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/statewidedualcreditqual16.

Family Engagement

Webinar: Setting the Landscape for Meaningful Family Engagement

This webinar offered participants the opportunity to assess needs and build a common understanding for what it takes to build meaningful pathways for family engagement that are linked to learning and healthy development.

Participants were able to learn practical ways to build partnerships with families. They also learned about research-based tools and resources that can be used to help guide their work. To view a recording of the webinar, please visit

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/4297819806341137668>.

For more information on the resources and information discussed in this webinar, please visit

www.isbe.net/family-engagement/html/overview.htm or <http://iarss.org/foundational-services/family-engagement/>.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

FY 2017 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant RFP Released

The Illinois State Board of Education has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the FY 2017 National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grants. These grants will provide \$1,127,625 in total to approved School Food Authorities (SFA) on a reimbursement basis to assist in purchasing equipment to serve healthier meals that meet the updated meal pattern requirement, improve food safety, and expand access.

Each SFA participating in the federally funded NSLP is eligible to submit an application for schools under its jurisdiction. An SFA is defined as a governing body that is responsible for the administration of one or more schools and has the legal authority to operate the NSLP therein. Although all NSLP SFAs are eligible to apply, priority will be given to schools 1) that have higher percentages of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals. (If needed, refer to the FY 2016 eligibility listing posted at

www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/eligibility_listings.htm.); 2) that did not receive equipment assistance grants

since FY 2009 (If needed, refer to the “Previously Funded” listing at www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp_grant.htm.); 3) that demonstrate high need, i.e., are able to show they are in an underserved area, have limited access to other resources/funding to purchase equipment, or have equipment that is outdated, nonfunctioning, or nonexistent; 4) that demonstrate how these funds will improve the quality of school meals; 5) that commit to implementing strategies for adopting smarter lunchrooms; 6) that participated in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) in SY 2015-16; and 7) that are self-prep and/or satellite meals to other schools participating in NSLP. Refer to “Review Criteria.”

The grant period will begin no sooner than Jan. 1, 2017, and will extend from the execution date of the grant agreement until June 30, 2018. All funds must be expended by the end of the grant period and the final Claim for Reimbursement for NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant funds, including invoices, must be received no later than July 31, 2018.

This FY 2017 Equipment Grant RFP is posted at www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/nslp_grant.htm and the deadline to apply is 5 p.m. Nov. 3, 2016. Additional information on the NSLP is available at www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/national_school_lunch.htm.

If you have questions regarding this grant, please email Shawn Backs at sbacks@isbe.net.

USDA Announces Availability of Farm to School Grants for FY 2017

On Sept. 13, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that up to \$5 million in grant funds is available to help schools create or strengthen farm-to-school programs this school year. These annual competitive grants, which are administered by the USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service, will help further USDA efforts to increase locally sourced foods in America’s school meals.

Farm-to-school programs help form healthy habits and support local economies. The local foods offered through farm-to-school programs help school meal programs fulfill the updated school nutrition standards with appealing and diverse offerings. According to the [2015 USDA Farm to School Census](http://www.usda.gov/farm-to-school), schools with

robust farm-to-school programs report reductions in food waste; higher school meal participation rates; and increased willingness of the students to try new foods, notably fruits, and vegetables. In addition, in school year 2013-14 alone, schools purchased more than \$789 million in local food from farmers, ranchers, fishermen, and food processors and manufacturers.

The USDA's Farm to School Grants make these outcomes possible by funding school districts, state and local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, agricultural producers, and nonprofit organizations in their efforts to increase local foods served through child nutrition programs, teach children about food and agriculture through garden and classroom education, and develop schools' and farmers' capacities to participate in farm-to-school programs. The funds may be used for training, supporting operations, planning, purchasing equipment, developing school gardens, developing partnerships, and implementing farm-to-school programs.

The Farm to School Grant Program was authorized in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. To date, USDA has funded 300 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Since its inception in FY 2013, more than \$20 million has been awarded through the Farm to School Grant Program. This year, awards ranging from \$20,000 to \$100,000 will be distributed in four different grant categories: Planning, Implementation, Support Service, and Training.

Applications are due by Dec. 8. On Thursday, Sept. 29, the USDA will host a webinar to review the Request for Applications and assist eligible entities in preparing proposals. Visit the [grants homepage](#) for more information and to register for the webinar.

In Brief

Grant Opportunities

- The [Life Time Foundation](#), the [Chef Ann Foundation](#), and the [Whole Kids Foundation](#) are teaming up for a school food grant opportunity aimed to help districts improve meal programs and transition to scratch cook operations. The application deadline for the School Food Support Initiative is Nov. 30. Selected districts will receive program services valued at approximately \$192,000 (dependent on district size). Up to seven districts across the country will be selected for this second

round of grant founding. To read more, visit the [School Food Support Initiative webpage](#) or send questions to info@chefannfoundation.org.

Upcoming Events

- The Department of Children and Family Services Clinical Division, in conjunction with Prevent Child Abuse Illinois, has arranged a viewing of the documentary **"Paper Tigers"** later this month. Educators, foster parents, law enforcement, community partners, and social service providers are invited to the screening. Visit <https://acestoohigh.com/2014/12/02/paper-tigers-trailer-a-peek-into-documentary-about-lincoln-high-school/> to see a short overview of the documentary. For screening dates and locations, please contact Rita Houston at (773) 371-6488 or Rita.Houston@illinois.gov.
- 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. Sign up and be assigned a local project mentor at usgbc-illinois.org/events/green-apple/.

Employment Opportunities

- Watch for vacancy lists and find instructions for applying on ISBE's Human Resources webpage at www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm.