Hello,

I had an amazing opportunity at the Illinois Association of School Administrators meeting on Friday to connect with district superintendents across the state and share the supports and opportunities we have in front of us this year.

Full funding by June 30, 2027, is the opening line of Public Act 100-465, the funding formula for Illinois public schools. Our collective advocacy for full funding is more essential and timely than ever. We all have a responsibility to intercede and take up for each other. Even if your district is at greater capacity, it is incumbent upon you to advocate for all districts. When everybody does better, everybody does better.

Last week, ISBE also shared the timeline of events for the 2018 Illinois Report Card. We want to make sure you have all the information you need about the structure and what’s coming. Sign up for our support and accountability email list for more materials leading up to the Report Card’s release on Oct. 31.

I want to highlight a really great Advanced Placement (AP) funding opportunity that aims to increase students’ access to and success in AP courses. More students are taking AP in Illinois than ever before, across race and class. ISBE covered a portion of the AP exam fee for all students who qualified as low-income in 2017. Additionally, 43 schools in 23 districts have partnered with Equal Opportunity Schools, a national nonprofit, as a part of the Lead Higher Initiative. Lead Higher partner schools are showing that their students of color and low-income students are ready to be successful in these challenging courses, with no significant change in course pass rates between the 2015-16 and 2017-18 school years. This accomplishment is a result of the extraordinary work of educators, students, and families across the state – and it shows what happens when we invest in equity. This fiscal year 2019 AP funding opportunity will help us continue to do more of this work.

The PSAT is a powerful indicator of AP potential. Students across the state will take the PSAT or SAT on Oct. 10. ISBE is committed to funding and helping districts fund these assessments for all high school students in grades 9, 10, and 11. This support creates more equitable opportunities for all students to receive merit-based scholarships to universities of their choice, to have access to advanced coursework, to benefit from detailed college or career guidance, and ultimately, to thrive in college and career.
Competency-based learning is part of our work to support all students in achieving college and career success. Welcome and congratulations to the four new competency pilot districts (/Lists/News/NewsDisplay.aspx?ID=1227)! Our pilot districts (/competency) are designing incredible systems that nurture the individual strengths each student brings to the classroom. We are excited to keep growing a network and deepening our statewide understanding of what student-driven learning looks like. ISBE was authorized by the State Board at the September retreat to continue to pursue Districts of Innovation legislation to maximize autonomy and flexibility for all districts across the state. Districts of Innovation would be encouraged to develop new or create alternatives to existing instructional and administrative practices intended to improve student learning and student performance.

ISBE continues to provide resources for districts to build upon our collective understanding of the new Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) distribution calculation. Learn more about the new EBF tools in the next item and visit ISBE’s EBF website (/Pages/EvidenceBasedFunding.aspx) to view the additional resources available.

**Reminder: Today is the last day to submit public comment on “Teach Illinois: Strong Teachers, Strong Classrooms” (/teachillinois)** to teachillinois@isbe.net (mailto:teachillinois@isbe.net). **Don’t forget to send in your feedback today!**

Have a great week!

Tony

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**UPCOMING ISBE DATES AND DEADLINES**

Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings, and deadlines. For more events and details, visit the ISBE Meetings page (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ISBE-Meetings.aspx) or call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663.

- **Oct. 3:** Deadline to apply to USSYP and Hearst Scholarship (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/United-States-Senate-Youth-Program-Hearst-Scholarship.aspx)
  1:18 p.m. **Oct. 3:** Nationwide test of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System
- **Oct. 5:** Thomas Lay Burroughs Award nominations due (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/thomas-lay-burroughs-award.aspx)
- **Oct. 5:** Extended Deadline to submit District Assessment Survey (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Assessment-Survey.aspx)
- **Oct. 8:** ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day
- **Oct. 9:** FINAL Deadline to review E-Report Card data and submit any changes
- **Oct. 11:** IL-EMPOWER School Support Webinar (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/126087194994729602)
- **Oct. 17:** Illinois State Board of Education meeting (https://www.isbe.net/Documents/2018_Board_Calendar.pdf)
- **Oct. 17:** FY 2020 Budget Hearing in Springfield (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Budget.aspx)
- **Oct. 18:** Annual Earthquake Awareness Drill (https://www.shakeout.org/centralus/index.html)
- **Oct. 19:** Postmark Deadline to submit CTE U.S. Presidential Scholar Program nominations/applications (https://www.isbe.net/Documents/FY19-CTE-Scholar-Nomination-App-Form.pdf)
- **Oct. 19:** Deadline to submit FY 2019 Advanced Placement RFP (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Advanced-Placement.aspx)
- **Oct. 19-20:** Annual Illinois Association of School Nurses Conference
- **Oct. 20:** 2018 Those Who Excel Banquet
- **Oct. 24:** FY 2020 Budget Hearing in Mount Vernon (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Budget.aspx)
- **Oct. 25:** Deadline to submit Charter Schools Program - QSO RFP (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/csGrantsRfps.aspx)
- **Oct. 31:** Deadline to submit U.S. Presidential Scholar Program nomination letters
- **Nov. 1:** Deadline to submit data in 2019 Employment Information System
- **Nov. 5:** Deadline to submit revisions for 2017-18 (FY 2019) Annual Claim for Pupil Transportation Reimbursement
- **Nov. 6:** ISBE offices closed for General Election Day
- **Nov. 8:** Deadline to submit 2018-19 Unfilled Positions Survey in IWAS
- **Nov. 12:** ISBE offices closed for Veterans Day
THOSE WHO EXCEL

Meet Teacher of the Year Finalist Sara Magnafichi

Sara Magnafichi teaches first-grade students at Admiral Byrd Elementary School in Elk Grove Village in Community Consolidated School District 59. Her own teachers had such a positive impact on Sara that she was determined to become a teacher who made a difference in her students’ lives. She says that she knew her teachers believed in her and were there to help her be not only the best student she could be, but also the best person she could be. That gave her the confidence to work hard and reach her goal of becoming a teacher. She says that she views any class or professional development training she takes through the lens of “how will this benefit my students.”

Many of Sara’s students enter her class below grade level and leave her class having made at least one year’s growth. Many have closed the gap and are at grade-level expectations or above. A colleague of Sara’s wrote, “Her teaching is never about moving on to the next lesson; it’s always about student understanding.”

Sara is a proponent of social and emotional learning as well as academic learning. She takes the time to get to know her students and their families. Sara holds morning and closing circles every day. These circles give students a safe space to talk about positives and negatives in their lives, allowing them to experience acceptance and support. The students gain confidence and trust, which help them to learn and grow successfully.

She is also a teacher representative for the school’s grief and loss support group, attends PTO events, and is a familiar face throughout the school and community. Students and families know Sara truly cares about them. The author of one of her recommendation letters wrote, “I can best emphasize my belief in Sara as an educator by stating that if I had one primary teacher in the district to pick for my own kids to have as a teacher, I would choose Sara for that role.”

Sara doesn’t use the word “can’t.” When students express their frustration with struggling academically, Sara teaches them to draw on the power of “yet.” She teaches them that with hard work, time, and a plan, anything is possible. Her students quickly learn that everyone has strengths and weaknesses, and that when they use their strengths to assist in growing they find success -- and that is the power of “yet”!

Sara is one of 10 finalists for Illinois Teacher of the Year, who will be named at the Those Who Excel banquet in Normal on October 20.

ILLINOIS REPORT CARD

FINAL Deadline to Review E-Report Card Data Oct. 9

ISBE will be releasing school, district, and state Report Cards on Oct. 31, 2018. ISBE’s Report Card team is hard at work to ensure that the Report Card is accurate and released in a timely fashion. ISBE requested final data approval from the field by Sept. 20, 2018, in order to meet these goals
If you have not done so, please review your information in the E-Report Card system prior to Oct. 9, 2018, to ensure accuracy. Please contact the Division of Data Strategies and Analytics at (217) 782-3950 or send an email to reportcard@isbe.net (mailto:reportcard@isbe.net) as soon as possible if your school or district has any outstanding issues related to graduation rate, chronic truancy, freshman on track, or advanced coursework (AP, IB, dual credit).

ISBE will begin final processing for the report cards next Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2018. We need any final changes immediately so that we can meet the timeline and accuracy deadlines that have been shared with the field. Beginning with the 2018 Report Card, any change to a district indicator could potentially affect the summative designation of other school buildings. Our goal is to minimize those changes as much as possible. Therefore, data processing for the 2018 Report Card and 2018 summative designations will begin after Oct. 9 and no additional changes can be made.

SUPPORT & ACCOUNTABILITY

Subscribe to Receive Critical Information in Advance of Oct. 31

Illinois’ system of support and accountability helps us identify which schools need the greatest assistance to meet our shared goals. The system launches statewide with the 2018 Illinois Report Card. ISBE is sending a series of emails leading up to Oct. 31 to ensure all stakeholders have the information they need about the Report Card, IL-EMPOWER, and summative designations.

The following materials have been shared so far:

- ISBE’s Seven Research-Based Goals (https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ISBE_VisionMissionGoals.pdf)

Continue to view the materials at www.isbe.net/support (http://www.isbe.net/support). We encourage all education communities to subscribe at www.isbe.net/subscribe (http://www.isbe.net/subscribe) and to share these emails and materials with outside networks. We are grateful for this partnership to build a fairer system to support the whole child, whole school, and whole community.

IL-EMPOWER

Upcoming IL-EMPOWER School Support Webinar – Oct. 11

ISBE is holding a webinar from 3-4 p.m. on Oct. 11 for all district and school administrators. The webinar will explain the process for schools designated as "underperforming" or "lowest performing" to access IL-EMPOWER school improvement services. Specifically, the webinar will address the Title I 1003(a) application process, how to utilize the IL Quality Framework and Supporting Rubric, and recommended steps to select a Learning Partner that has been approved by IL-EMPOWER.

Registration for the IL-EMPOWER webinar is available (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1260871949944729602). Please email il-empower@isbe.net (mailto:il-empower@isbe.net) if you have questions.

Upcoming IL Quality Framework and Supporting Rubric Webinar – Oct. 4

ISBE, in collaboration with the Illinois Association of School Administrators and the Illinois Principals Association, is holding an IL Quality Framework and Supporting Rubric webinar from 3-4 p.m. on Oct. 4. This webinar is for all district and school administrators. Presenters will provide guidance for completing this school-level needs assessment. The IL Quality Framework is required for schools designated to receive Targeted or Comprehensive support through IL-EMPOWER and is highly recommended for any school to use across the state. The webinar will cover:
Development of the IL Quality Framework and Supporting Rubric (needs assessment) by the Illinois Balanced Accountability Measure Committee

Overview of the content of the IL Quality Framework and Supporting Rubric

Recommendations for use of the IL Quality Framework and Supporting Rubric

Accessing and completing rubric ratings in the IWAS system

Registration for the IL Quality Framework and Supporting Rubric webinar is available (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3454889128700366082). Please email il-empower@isbe.net (mailto:il-empower@isbe.net) if you have questions.

BUDGET & FINANCE

Upcoming Public Hearings on FY 2020 Budget Recommendations

ISBE is hosting three public hearings this fall to gather requests to inform ISBE’s fiscal year 2020 budget recommendations for pre-K through 12th-grade educational service providers statewide. All individuals – including those attending a hearing in person – should submit their comments and stories by completing a budget request form (/Documents/ISBE-Form-00-20-FY20-Budget-Request-Form.pdf) and emailing the form to isbeFY20@isbe.net (mailto:isbeFY20@isbe.net).

The public budget hearings for FY 2020 will take place in:

- **Springfield** – **Wednesday, Oct. 17**, immediately following the Board meeting (approximately 11 a.m.) in the Board Room at ISBE (100 N. First St.)
- **Mount Vernon** – **Wednesday, Oct. 24**, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Dr. Nick Osborne Primary Center (401 North 30th St.)
- **Chicago** – **Friday, Nov. 16**, immediately following the Board meeting (approximately 11 a.m.) in Conference Room 16-503 at the Thompson Center (100 W. Randolph St.)

ISBE encourages all to share their stories and ideas on social media with the hashtag #MyEduBudget. Additionally, individuals may RSVP on Facebook for each event at www.facebook.com/IllinoisStateBoardofEducation/events (http://www.facebook.com/IllinoisStateBoardofEducation/events).

Additional resources and information will continue to be posted on ISBE’s Budget webpage (/Pages/Budget.aspx).

EVIDENCE-BASED FUNDING

New EBF Finance Resources Now Available

The State Funding and Forecasting team has created two new tools to assist districts with further understanding Evidence-Based Funding (EBF).

**Evidence-Based Funding Data Impact Calculator**

This new tool allows districts to change both enrollment and EAV to see how changes in those variables impact the EBF distribution calculation. It is not a predictor of future year funding, but it does illustrate how modifying data points can result in changes to a district’s Adequacy Target, Local Capacity Target, and Tier Funding. An accompanying recorded demo on the EBF Data Impact Calculator (https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/8913152921382766338) has been posted to show the Data Impact Calculator functions. It can be found on the EBF Distribution Calculation webpage (/Pages/ebfdistribution.aspx) under “What’s New?” or by selecting EBF Data Impact Calculator (/_layouts/Download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Documents/FY19-EBF-Data-Impact-Calculator.xlsm).

**Adequacy Target Gap Analysis Tool**
We also have developed a tool to help districts compare their calculated Adequacy Target and actual staffing levels to determine where there are gaps. This tool, which was developed in response to requests from the field, can be used to help with staffing decisions.


If you have questions regarding either tool, please call (217) 782-0249.

**ASSESSMENT**

**District Assessment Survey Deadline Extended**

ISBE has extended the deadline for completion of the District Assessment Survey (/Pages/Assessment-Survey.aspx) until **noon on Friday, October 5**. All public schools are required to complete this assessment. If you need assistance re-opening the survey, please contact the Assessment and Accountability Division at (866) 317-6034.

**2018 Student Growth Percentile (SGP) Data Now Available in SIS**

Individual Student Growth Percentile (SGP) data is now available in SIS in the PARCC reports, as well as the PARCC request files. Mean SGP data is available through the PARCC Scores Grid report. We encourage schools or districts who have questions about SGP data to contact the division of Assessment and Accountability at assessment@isbe.net or (866) 317-6034.

**FUNDING & DISBURSEMENTS**

**2017-18 (FY 2019) Annual Claim for Pupil Transportation Reimbursement – Correction Period Now Open**

All local education entities are hereby notified that the review and amendment (if needed) process is now open and will end at **midnight on Nov. 5, 2018**. All revisions to the Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim must be completed and transmitted **on or before that time**. No revisions will be accepted after this date in order to close the claim file and schedule the three remaining quarterly payments.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR REVIEWING THE CLAIM**

1. Log in to the ISBE Web Application Security system (IWAS).
2. Click on "System Listing" on the IWAS homepage.
3. Select "Pupil Transportation Claim Reimbursement System" under the "Annual Claims" heading.
4. Click on "Claim Review" under the "Reimbursement Claim" heading on the homepage. **Do not click on "Revise Claim" button unless you need to make revisions.**
5. The claim will be loaded to the screen in read-only format. Carefully review each line on the claim for possible revisions. If you entered transportation assets on the Depreciation Schedule, don't forget to click on the "Depreciation Schedule" button at the bottom of the screen and review the depreciation schedule data for possible revisions.

You do not need to do anything if you do not have any revisions. Your claim will remain as originally submitted by the statutory Aug. 15 due date.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR REVISING THE CLAIM**

If you have reviewed the claim and found that revisions are needed to the depreciation schedule and/or the Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim:

1. Click on the "Revise Claim" link under the "Reimbursement Claim" heading on the homepage.
2. You may enter notes in the "Your Comments" text box to help you remember why revisions were needed. Click on the "Revise Claim" button at the bottom of the screen to proceed with revisions to the depreciation schedule (if needed) and the Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim.

3. Note that all links for the reimbursement claim are open and may be revised, as needed. The "Depreciation Schedule Summary" link under the "Depreciation Schedule" heading has been changed to "Calculate Depreciation Allowance You must click on this link and update the Depreciation Schedule if you made any changes to transportation assets after the August submit date.

4. **Click on the "Review & Submit Claim" after all revisions have been made. All revised claims must be resubmitted to ISBE through the proper channels (Document Author to the District Superintendent and District Superintendent to ISBE).**

**NO REVISIONS TO THE CLAIM WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER MIDNIGHT ON MONDAY, NOV. 5, 2018.**

If you have questions regarding the amendment process, contact Mike Stier via telephone at (217) 782-5256 or via email at mstier@isbe.net (mailto:mstier@isbe.net).

**THOMAS LAY BURROUGHS AWARD**

**Seeking State’s Outstanding School Board President Nominations**

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

This award was created in 1991 in memory of the late ISBE chairman and is presented each November at the IASB/IASA/IASBO conference in Chicago. This year the conference will be held on Nov. 16-18.

The Burroughs Award is intended to recognize extraordinary leadership on behalf of education at the local level, especially through characteristics similar to those shown by Tom Burroughs. The criteria for this award recognize the following three areas of accomplishment:

- Leadership on behalf of improved student learning and educational excellence,
- Leadership on behalf of equal educational opportunities, and
- Leadership in resolving a crisis or major difficulty.

For the purpose of this award, leadership is defined as including group skills, such as consensus building and teamwork, and individual traits, such as vision, courage, integrity, etc.

Please visit the Burroughs Award webpage (/Pages/thomas-lay-burroughs-award.aspx) for more information about the award criteria and instructions for making a nomination.

Nominations are due **by the close of business on Friday, Oct. 5, 2018.** You may send the nomination via email to kgallowa@isbe.net (mailto:kgallowa@isbe.net) Please indicate the subject of the email is Burroughs Nomination. If you have questions, please call Katherine Galloway at (217) 557-6626.

**DATA STRATEGIES & ANALYTICS**

**2018-19 Unfilled Positions Survey Now Available in IWAS**

The 2018-19 Unfilled Positions Survey is now available in IWAS for data entry. The deadline for completing the survey and submitting it to ISBE is **Nov. 8.** Districts are to report the number of budgeted positions they were unable to fill as of Oct. 1, 2018. All districts that hire staff are required to complete the survey, even districts that did not have any unfilled positions.
To avoid duplicating unfilled positions reported by public school districts, other reporting entities (e.g., special education cooperatives) should only report their unfilled employee positions.

Questions about the survey content may be directed to Marjurie Ribeiro at mribeiro@isbe.net (mailto:mribeiro@isbe.net). For technical assistance accessing IWAS, please contact the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

2018-19 Noncertified Staff Salary Study Available Oct. 1

The 2018-19 Noncertified Staff Salary Study data survey is now available in IWAS. This form must be completed and submitted by Feb. 1, 2019. It is the district administrator’s responsibility to review the completed survey for accuracy and submit it to ISBE.

Districts with 1,000 or more enrolled students as of the last school day in September 2018 must submit this survey. The district administrator or a district document author may complete this survey.

Please contact the Data Strategies and Analytics Division at (217) 782-3950 for further assistance. For technical assistance accessing IWAS, please contact the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

2018-19 Teacher Salary Study Available Oct. 1

The 2018-19 Teacher Salary Study data form is now available in IWAS. It must be completed and submitted by Feb. 1, 2019.

In addition to completing the form, please send a copy of your salary schedule/policy and negotiated agreement to the address below. This is not necessary if you provided copies of the schedule/policy and agreement previously and they are still in effect. Send updated schedules and policies to:

Data Strategies and Analytics Division
Illinois State Board of Education
100 North First Street, S-284
Springfield, Illinois 62777

Please contact the Data Strategies and Analytics Division at (217) 782-3950 for further assistance. For technical assistance accessing IWAS, please contact the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

SAFE & HEALTHY CLIMATE

Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Nationwide Test Oct. 3

There will be a nationwide test of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) beginning at 1:18 p.m. on Oct. 3. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission, will conduct a nationwide test of IPAWS and its Emergency Alert System (EAS) (http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWfPTEmbWfFbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYwOTA2LjYzNzcyMTUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTCT0yMDE2MDkwNi42MzM5MjE1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MzQzNzcyMjYtYWlsaWQ9YW1hbml0cmluZwYjfakeYm7H32QZlt6YXJpYXRISWQ9JiYm6B&) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) (http://www.fema.gov/frequently-asked-questions-wireless-emergency-alerts/). This test message will be sent to cell phones that are connected to wireless providers participating in WEA.

Learning time will likely be disrupted, so national school safety partners, including the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Safe and Healthy Students, highly encourage districts to use the time to provide a teachable moment about emergency preparedness.
Contact the REMS TA Center, which is the national school safety technical assistance center, at info@remstacenter.org (mailto:info@remstacenter.org) or 1-855-781-REMS [7367] if you have questions or need additional information.

**ILLINOIS ARTS EDUCATION WEEK**

**2019 Illinois Arts Education Week Poster Contest – Call for Entries**

The 37th Illinois Arts Education Week will be March 11-17, 2019. The Illinois State Board of Education and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM) in cooperation with the Illinois Art Education Association will merge two contests into one this year. The 2019 art contest will consist of three categories: Elementary (K-5), Middle (6-8), and High School (9-12). Each category will have a winner and five runners-up. The theme of this year’s poster contest is “Art Connects History with the Future!” The imagery should reflect the theme, as well as represent all five areas of art (dance, drama, media, music, and visual arts). There is no limit to the number of entries per school, but only one entry per student. Please fill out the downloadable contest form (/Documents/2019-ART-CONTEST.pdf) and send or deliver entries to ISBE by **Dec. 14**.

All winners will have their art enlarged and hung at the ALPLM for an entire year. One of the three winners will be chosen for a poster celebrating Illinois Arts Education Week, March 11-17, 2019. A poster will feature the student’s artwork as well as have additional information about art in our schools, resources and upcoming events. This poster will be sent to all public and private schools as well as state libraries to recognize the importance of arts in the education of all students.

Please contact ISBE’s Cornelia Powell at cpowell@isbe.net (mailto:cpowell@isbe.net) or (217) 524-4832 if you have questions.

**CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION**

**Save the Dates: IL Classrooms in Action Fall 2018 Conferences Nov. 6 and Dec. 12**

**Putting it all Together: K-5 Strategy Dive**

Join ISBE content area specialists for a day of professional learning focused on the unique needs of K-5 educators. This day will be centered on specific strategies that can be utilized in the elementary classroom. Explore the science and social science shifts. Discover instructional strategies that work across all content areas. Walk away with a variety of strategies and resources that can be implemented in the classroom right away! [Registration for Putting it all Together: K-5 Strategy Dive is opening soon](http://www.ilclassroomsinaction.org/upcoming-professional-development.html).

**Engaging Students in the Middle Grades: Connecting with 6-8 Students**

Looking for new ways to engage middle school students as well as address social emotional standards in the classroom? Join ISBE content area specialists for a day of professional learning centered on specific strategies to enhance any content focus in the middle school classroom. Explore strategies to connect with students and help them transition to and throughout middle school. Discover strategies for facilitating discussions and discourse. Walk away with a variety of strategies that can be implemented in the classroom right away! [Registration for Engaging Students in the Middle Grades: Connecting with 6-8 Students is opening soon](http://www.ilclassroomsinaction.org/upcoming-professional-development.html).

**Upcoming #ILMathCom Events**

**Differentiation: Engaging Students with Quality Instruction** - Oct. 4, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Discussion will focus on effective differentiation strategies. Glennah McMahon from Hawthorn Middle School North in Vernon Hills will be sharing some of favorite strategies alongside other amazing Illinois educators. Participants are encouraged to ask questions and share their ideas.


**Problem Based Learning in Mathematics** - Oct. 18, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

#ILMathCom conversation will focus on Problem-Based Learning. Joanie Funderburk, regional director of Professional Services at Illustrative Mathematics, and Rae Hughart, a sixth-grade math teacher at Evans Junior High and Unit 5 School District and director of Training and Development for the Teach Better Team, will share resources and talk about personal experiences with Problem-Based Learning in the math classroom. Participants will be given the opportunity to ask questions.


**Survey on Virtual Lesson Study**

If you are interested in participating in a VIRTUAL lesson study this semester or next, but so far the options have not worked in your schedule, fill out the Lesson Study: Letter of Interest form (https://goo.gl/forms/KVso87L8MUnJOx2H3) and provide us more information for the best time to provide this opportunity. Schools can even considering holding a facilitated lesson study cycle during in-school PLC time.

**WELLNESS PROGRAMS**

**Summit on PANDAS and PANS Oct. 4**

In accordance with PA 99-0320 (http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=099-0320), ISBE is part of a statewide advisory council on Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal infection (PANDAS) and Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) and staff is providing a session on Supporting the Child with PANDAS/PANS in School. Registration for the PANDAS/PANS session is free (https://ipac-summit-2018.bpt.me/).

The PANDAS Standards of Care Summit will be held Oct. 4 from noon to 5 p.m. in Springfield at the John R. Block Building, 801 E. Sangamon Ave., Gate 11, State Fairgrounds. Learn about the academic, behavioral, and social/emotional issues of students who exhibit signs of PANDAS or PANS. This complicated condition, which is often associated with the infection with the streptococcus bacteria (or "strep throat") is misunderstood and often goes undiagnosed. Students exhibit confusing symptoms associated with signs of mental illness or other behavioral issues. Preliminary data suggest that appropriate treatment early in the course of illness and effective use of antibiotics prophylaxis may be able to prevent up to 25-30 percent of childhood mental illnesses.

Contact Jessica Gerdes at jgerdes@isbe.net with any questions.

**New Partnership to Promote School Health**

ISBE is excited to announce that new funding received through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's “Improving Student Health and Academic Achievement through Nutrition, Physical Activity and the Management of Chronic Conditions in Schools” grant has allowed for partnerships with the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Public Health Institute to promote nutrition, physical activity, and chronic disease management in Illinois schools over the next five years.
As part of this work, a new quarterly school health newsletter and a series of school health webinars will be offered this year. Sign up for the school health newsletter (https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=0010YFcABXluzqUB3NT1U4lBsbG4bnWwldKI4FcmM3xEslyZk-4qlQcL3MJwb1_7WchOOvovJ_hXyfYGAkyUxJNRy0HUB2Gb5ONMLn6MvhvMd9IPnWscs0Dyo7tg43luWBsjZXsKOm8Cqo0feJy_j2zoEBP3eNddg3gV1W9b0G6ndSXJCj7ks7pPK9jZc1JNhoj7cxa6RuHMoMF-78MnY7MHJ2TA45tYwS).

The first of these webinars, Strong School Wellness Policies: Best Practices, New Resources, and Tips for Illinois Schools & Districts, will be 3-4 p.m. on Oct. 10. Read more about upcoming school wellness webinars and register (http://preventobesityil.org/upcoming-webinar-strong-school-wellness-policies-best-practices-new-resources-and-tips-for-illinois-schools-districts/).

**Reminder Regarding Compliance with Student Vaccinations and Physical Exams**

Illinois law requires that students receive vaccinations against a number of diseases at specified intervals. School Code Section 27-8.1 from Public Act 100-0238 (http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=100-0238) also requires that those students without the vaccines or valid waivers are excluded from attendance until the proof of vaccination or valid waiver is received by the school.

The valid exceptions are those based on medical reason – written by a health care provider – or religious reason – written by a parent or guardian and also signed by a health care provider (MD, DO, APN or PA) who has counseled the parent(s) about vaccinations. Schools do not have leeway on excluding students who are not vaccinated or do not hold a valid waiver by Oct. 15 (or an earlier date established by the local school board).

1. Appointments beyond the mandatory exclusion date may be accepted only for:
   - Students transferring from out of state and only for 30 days past the date they transferred into Illinois schools, or Oct. 15, whichever is later, with the vaccine administered during that extension.

2. Students for whom all applicable immunizations that a child can medically receive are given by the final due date and a signed statement from a health care provider is presented indicating when the remaining medically indicated immunization will be administered within the current school year. Local school authorities shall monitor those scheduled appointments to assure their completion. If a child is delinquent for a scheduled appointment for immunization, the student is no longer considered to be in compliance.

3. Students who are protected from exclusion under the federal and state homeless student protection laws.

A physician who believes a child is protected against a disease according to a different schedule than one required by the state may state in writing the reasons for that belief and certify that he or she believes the specific immunization in question is not necessary or indicated. Such a statement should be attached to the child’s permanent school health record and follow the rules in the Public Health Code Section 665.280, Physician Statement of Immunity, for further instructions. In addition, all students who do not have sufficient protection against a vaccine-preventable disease, whether due to religious objections or medical objections or other reason, must be readily identifiable to school authorities as unprotected against each disease for which they have not received sufficient vaccination. Those students may be subject to immediate exclusion if an outbreak of one of those diseases should occur at the school.

**Public Notice of compliance with vaccines and physical examination requirements:**

Each public school and registered nonpublic school must provide to ISBE each fall the numbers of students in compliance by protection, in compliance by valid waiver, and not in compliance with the vaccine and physical exam requirements. The number excluded for lacking one or more vaccines or physical exam without a valid waiver is also to be reported. The same data reported to ISBE is to be available to the public by each district and registered nonpublic school by Dec. 1 of each year. The information is also presented in aggregate on the ISBE website and available to the public. The data recorded on the students' permanent health records, available to ISBE monitors, and reported to ISBE in aggregate, and available in aggregate to the public, must match.

Contact Jessica Gerdes at jgerdes@isbe.net (mailto:jgerdes@isbe.net) with any questions.
IN BRIEF

Funding Opportunities

- The Library of Congress awards grants under the Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) Regional program (http://teachingprimarysources.illinoisstate.edu/tpsmidwestregion/proposalFormat.html) to educational organizations and cultural institutions that will provide high-quality educator programming centered on the use of the library’s digital primary sources available at www.loc.gov (http://www.loc.gov/). The TPS Midwest Region seeks project proposals from eligible groups who wish to incorporate TPS methods and materials into their existing education and professional development programs. The TPS Midwest Region will fund a minimum of 15 projects for FY 2019. Grants will not exceed $20,000. Funds may be used for substitute teachers, materials, project administration, and teacher stipends. Expenses are reimbursed quarterly.

- In partnership with the Winnick Family Foundation, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation (https://www2.illinois.gov/alplm/museum/Education/Documents/2018%20Winnick%20Grant%20App.pdf) will provide field trip transportation grants to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum to teachers in grades 4 through 12 in public and private schools with a low-income enrollment of greater than 30 percent. Applications are due by Oct. 15.

District Resources

- The University of Illinois at Chicago’s Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) (https://dscc.uic.edu/) is a resource for school health professionals who work with children with special needs and complex medical conditions. DSCC is a statewide program that partners with Illinois families and their local communities to connect children with special health care needs to the services and resources they need to reach their full potential. DSCC guides and supports families through their child’s journey with a diagnosis and put them at the center of a seamless support system that improves the quality of their lives. Referrals (https://dscc.uic.edu/for-providers/refer-a-family/) to the program are simple. To learn more about DSCC and their programs, visit the UIC Specialized Care for Children website (https://dscc.uic.edu/), call (800) 322-3722, or email dscc@uic.edu (mailto:dscc@uic.edu).

ISBE Employment Opportunities

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