



Weekly Message

Oct. 25, 2016

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Congratulations Ricky Castro!

This past Saturday evening, I had the pleasure of presiding over the 42nd annual Those Who Excel Awards Banquet and Program. The banquet was held at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott in Normal and 985 people attended! The turnout was terrific and I am happy to see this program continue to grow in both attendance and nominations. Few things give me greater joy than meeting with and recognizing educators from across the state. To be able to publicly acknowledge and thank them for their dedication to the students of Illinois is humbling and rewarding.

As you know, each and every member of a school community plays an important part in creating a safe and healthy learning environment that fosters student growth and achievement. We are the only state that honors such a wide range of those involved in our children's education, from administrators, teachers, early career educators and school teams, to board members, community volunteers, educational service personnel and student support personnel. Thank you to everyone who attended the banquet and shared photos on social media with #ThoseWhoExcel to help spread the word about the great work of these award recipients.

Of course, the biggest honor goes to the 2017 Illinois Teacher of the Year. Please join me in congratulating Ricardo "Ricky" Castro, a language arts and Spanish heritage teacher at Elk Grove High School in Township High School District 214. Ricky has been teaching for 10 years and is determined to make a difference in the lives of his students and to improve his community. He firmly believes his role is to help his students not only succeed academically, but become engaged citizens.

In his acceptance speech, Ricky took the opportunity to bring his classroom to the banquet hall by highlighting the important contributions of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans during World War II. Ricky has challenged and empowered his students. Ricky is helping shape future leaders by sharing stories they can connect with and introducing them to moments in history that have been overlooked in the past.

"There is an untapped power in our students waiting to be unleashed," Castro said. "I exhort us as an education system to continue to come together and use education as a vehicle for building the leadership and democratic skills of our children."

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To learn more about Ricky's story, read his feature in the [Aug. 16 Weekly Message](#) or [Oct. 22 press release](#).

Congratulations to Ricky, all of the other Teacher of the Year finalists, and all of the recipients of the 2016-17 Those Who Excel awards!

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>.

- **Illinois Report Card Release** – Oct. 31
- **Deadline to submit FY 2017 School District Budget/Joint Agreement Forms to ISBE** – Oct. 31 (www.isbe.net/sfms/budget/default.htm)
- **Deadline to submit EIS Employment/Position data** – Nov. 1
- **2016 Special Education Summer School State Aid Claim** – Nov. 1
- **ISBE offices closed for Election Day** – Nov. 8
- **Deadline to submit data in the Unfilled Positions Survey system** – Nov. 10
- **ISBE offices closed for Veterans Day** – Nov. 11
- **2015-16 Pupil Transportation Claim Reimbursement System Corrections** – Nov. 14
- **Deadline to submit data in the Student Health Data Immunization** – Nov. 15
- **Deadline to submit Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet** – Nov. 15
- **Annual Financial Report (ISBE Form 50-35) due to ISBE** – Nov. 15
- **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
- **FY17 NCLB/ESSA Title I Comparability Analysis** – Nov. 30
- **FY 17 School Technology Revolving Loan Program application deadline** – Dec. 1 (www.isbe.net/ed-technology/html/revolving_loan.htm)
- **State Board of Education Meeting** – Dec. 15 (<http://www.isbe.net/board/pdf/2016-board-meetings.pdf>)
- **Annual Statement of Affairs (ISBE Form 50-37) due to ISBE** – Dec. 15
- **ISBE offices closed for Christmas Day** – Dec. 26
- **Certificate of Tax Levy (ISBE Form 50-02) to the county clerk** – Dec. 26
- **ISBE offices closed for New Year's Day** – Jan. 2
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in spring 2017** – Jan. 13 (See www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)
- **2017 Illinois Arts Education Week** – March 13-19
- **Deadline to submit data in the Student Health Data Vision** – June 30

Illinois Report Card

MyIRC Train the Trainer Events

ISBE and Northern Illinois University are holding Train the Trainer events titled "What's New at MyIRC

– Spotlight: PARCC." The events will teach participants how to facilitate use of data available on the Illinois Report Card and MyIRC, including the PARCC individual student data for the past two years.

MyIRC is free to all public schools in Illinois. Participants will receive training, facilitators guide, presentation materials, and technical support to be able to redeliver training to local communities, schools, or districts.

The professional development events are from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. at two venues and are free.

- Nov. 1 at St. Clair ROE, 1000 S. Illinois Street, Belleville. To register, contact Donna Willett at dwillett@stclair.k12.il.us.
- Nov. 8 at Joliet PDA, 2705 McDonough St., Joliet. To register, go to www.pdaonline.org/Registration/WorkshopDetail.php?id=161108W-1.

A webinar will be available for those unable to attend either of the face-to-face sessions. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Illinois Arts Education Week

Entries Sought for Annual Poster Contest

Elementary school students are encouraged to enter the 2017 Illinois Arts Education Week Poster Contest.

The 2017 Arts Education Week, held in cooperation with the Illinois Arts Education Association and ISBE, will be March 13-19. This year's poster contest theme is "Art Knows No Boundaries!" The winner's artwork will be featured on a poster that is sent to all public and private schools in Illinois.

The 2017 contest is open to all public, nonpublic, and home-schooled students in grades 9-12. For more information and contest criteria, visit www.isbe.net/arts-week/default.htm. Entries must be postmarked no later than Dec. 6.

Every Student Succeeds Act

Supplement not Supplant Regulations

On Sept. 6, the U.S. Department of Education posted notice of proposed rulemaking regarding [supplement not supplant regulations](#). The intention of these rules is admirable, but the methodology will not help – and may, in fact, hurt – the students the proposed regulations are intended to benefit. Quality, types, and amount of resources are not considered compared to dollars spent. There is a lack of flexibility or

consideration for state and local control that is in contrast to the intention of the Every Student Succeeds Act.

It is CRITICAL that the U.S. Department of Education hear from districts on the impact of these proposed regulations. We've crafted a template letter that you can use to include your individual details and then submit via www.regulations.gov by Nov. 7. The template letter can be found at (www.isbe.net/ESSA/word/sns-district-template.docx).

More information on the regulations can be found on the ISBE website, including a [memorandum](#), [overview](#), [webinar](#), and [PowerPoint](#). If we can be of any support, please reach out to Melina Wright at (312) 814-1295 or via email at mewright@isbe.net.

5Essentials

Adding Optional District Voice Information

On this year's Report Card, districts will have an opportunity to add a district voice to their 5Essentials Survey results. The district voice will provide principals and superintendents an opportunity to provide some local context and explain how the district is utilizing the results. Principals can enter the information into their MyIIRC school site after the release of the 2016 Illinois Report Card on Oct. 31. This change developed out of the 5Essentials Focus Group. The district voice could include areas described below:

1. Provide a local context for the school results.
2. Explain the changes made in the district/school over the last year.
3. Principals can describe how they are addressing culture and climate in the school.
4. Talk about how the data is being utilized for school improvement planning and organizational growth.
5. Express how the school and district are engaging parents and the community on the topic of culture and climate.
6. What are the next steps for improving school culture and climate in the district/school?

Detailed instructions on how to add the 5Essentials feedback onto the Report Card are available at www.isbe.net/5essentials/pdf/2016-17/5E-feedback-form-sy17.pdf.

2016-17 FAQ and Survey Questions Now Available

The 2016-17 5Essentials FAQ is now available at www.isbe.net/5essentials/html/faq.htm. The FAQ provides information regarding the 5Essentials and the 5Essentials Survey, including definitions; reasons for implementation; and details on benefits, participation, and administration.

The 5Essentials Survey student, teacher, and parent core questions have also been made available at www.isbe.net/5essentials/pdf/2016-17/2016-17-5E-Survey-Questions.pdf.

Charter Schools

Charter Design Institute

Learn how you can create schools tailored to your students and community at the [Charter Design Institute](#) (CDI) at the [Illinois Charter Schools Conference](#), Nov. 10 in Chicago. The CDI features a site visit to [Muchin College Prep](#), a campus of the Noble Network of Charter Schools, and customized charter design workshops, in addition to a provocative [keynote by Clint Smith](#), awards luncheon, and networking reception. The CDI includes an overview of [federal charter startup grants](#) available through the Illinois State Board of Education. Learn more and register at www.incschoools.org/start-a-charter/charter-design-institute/. Charters are open-enrollment public schools that have the independence and flexibility to introduce new educational models focused on student success.

Funding and Disbursements

2015-16 Regular Transportation Reimbursement – Equalized Assessed Valuation Correction

Please be advised that ISBE has determined that the Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) figure utilized for the initial 2015-16 Regular Transportation claims payment in September was in error.

ISBE incorrectly processed the 2014 Original EAV for the September payment instead of the 2014 Adjusted EAV. The correct 2014 Adjusted EAV will be used to compute final reimbursement for all 2015-16 Regular Transportation claims when they are finalized in December. All remaining quarterly payments

processed in December, March, and June will be adjusted to correct each district's claim using the 2014 Adjusted EAV.

A comparison of the current 2015-16 Regular/Vocational Transportation claims using the Original EAV to the Adjusted EAV can be accessed at www.isbe.net/funding/excel/reg-trans-claims-15-16-compare-eav.xlsx. Please note that use of the Adjusted EAV does not result in an overall increase for some districts due to the fact that the estimated statewide proration decreased from 71.6 percent to 71.5 percent. As a reminder, all current 2015-16 claims are preliminary as data may be corrected and submitted to ISBE until Nov. 14.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Mark Morten at mmorten@isbe.net or by phone at (217) 782-5256.

Final 2015-16 IDEA Room and Board Claim Payment Information

The 2015-16 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Room and Board program is now complete and all claims were reimbursed at 100 percent. As a reminder, claims were paid at 90 percent during the 2015-16 school year to assure sufficient funding was available to pay all claims equally. After all claims for the fiscal year were received, an assessment of the availability of Room and Board funds was performed and a final payment was made. There was sufficient funding available this year to pay all claims for the additional 10 percent due. The following link provides a graph demonstrating the claims and available IDEA Part B funds utilized for the Room and Board program in the past few years: www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/sped-rb-history-graphFy16.pdf.

The final 2015-16 school year voucher was processed by ISBE on Sept. 28 and released by the Office of the Comptroller on Sept. 30.

2016-17 School Year: The projected increase of claims and available IDEA funds for the 2016-17 school year is estimated at a proration of approximately 95 percent; therefore, to avoid potential overpayment, submitted monthly claims will be paid at 90 percent during the year. Final

claims and proration will be calculated and paid after all claims are finalized in September 2017.

If you have questions, please contact Lisa Willhoit in the Funding and Disbursement Division at lwillhoi@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256.

Special Education Summer School State Aid Claim Due Nov. 1

The Special Education Summer School claim authorized under Section 18-4.3 is statutorily required to be received by ISBE **on or before Nov. 1**. Claims are for eligible students educated in 2016 summer programs and must be filed electronically via ISBE's Web Application Security System (IWAS). No claims will be accepted or honored after the statutory date.

Eligibility requirements for pupils claimed for summer school are:

(1) the pupil must be enrolled in one or more courses offered for at least 60 clock hours in the summer session;

(2) the pupil must be eligible pursuant to the requirements for continued summer school services per his or her Individualized Education Program;

(3) there shall not be a tuition charge to families to ensure a "free, appropriate public education."

Questions regarding completion of the Special Education Summer School claim should be directed to Jodi Whitlow, Division of Funding and Disbursement Services, at (217) 782-5256 or via email at jwhitlow@isbe.net.

2015-16 (FY 2017) 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. 14. All revisions to the Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim must be completed and transmitted on or before midnight on Nov. 14. 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 into 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.

If you do not have any revisions, you do not need to do anything. 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." If you made any changes to transportation assets after the August submit date, you must click on this link and update the Depreciation Schedule.
4. **After all revisions have been made, click on the "Review & Submit Claim."** 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. 14, 2016.**

If you have questions regarding the amendment process, contact Mark Morten at (217) 782-5256 or via email at mmorten@isbe.net.

School Health Issues

**Illinois Certificate of Religious Exemption
Form Update**

As you are aware, the Illinois Department of Public Health updated its “Illinois Certificate of Religious Exemption to Required Immunizations and/or Examinations Form” last year. This form now reflects changes to Illinois law made by Public Act 99-0249, which amends Section 27-8.1 of the School Code (105 ILCS 27-8.1). Section 27-8.1 requires the Certificate of Religion Exemption, created by the Department of Public Health, to be signed by a student’s health care provider and submitted to the local school authority prior to the student entering kindergarten, sixth grade, and ninth grade.

This law does not require the certificate to be completed annually. Districts may, at their discretion for the purposes of consistent record keeping, request that students and families use this form to document religious exemptions to immunizations and/or examinations on an annual basis, but the fully completed form is only mandatory at the grade levels required by statute.

Therefore, a student should not be excluded from school because his/her form was not completed and submitted in grades other than kindergarten, sixth grade, and ninth grade.

IDPH School Health Days

The Illinois Department of Public Health will hold School Health Days sessions at five locations around the state in November. To register, please visit www.ipha.com and scroll down to “Events” and click on Illinois School Health Days. The brochure/agenda is listed below the registration button. Room reservations are being accepted now.

- Nov. 2: Hyatt-Lisle, 1400 Corporetum Drive, Lisle, (630) 852-1234
- Nov. 3: Doubletree by Hilton Chicago, 75 W. Algonquin Road, Arlington Heights, (847) 364-7600
- Nov. 10: Radisson, 200 S. Bell School Rd., Rockford, (815) 226-2100
- Nov. 15: Rend Lake Resort & Conference Center, 11712 E. Windy Lane, Whittington, (618) 629-2211
- Nov. 22: Northfield Inn & Suites Center, 3280 Northfield Dr., Springfield, (217) 523-7900

Contact Marie Irwin at (217) 524-5992 or email at marie.irwin@illinois.gov if you have any questions.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

**Nutrition Division Plans USDA Foods
Exhibit and Workshop Jan. 10 and 12**

The Illinois State Board of Education’s Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division will host a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foods Exhibit and Workshop:

- **Jan. 10 in Collinsville**
- **Jan. 12 in Glen Ellyn**

This full-day exhibit and workshop will provide school nutrition professionals the opportunity to learn about processed products available through the Food Distribution Program from industry partners. In addition, continuing education hours will be available for breakout session topics that will be ongoing through the day for all school nutrition professionals.

Once finalized, an agenda will be posted. Plan to attend this continuing educational opportunity now. **Registration for attendees is now available;** visit www.isbe.net/nutrition and select “FDP – USDA Foods Exhibit and Workshop” under “Child Nutrition Program Workshops.”

Up to six hours of USDA annual continuing education will be available for full-day attendees. This workshop is being planned with the assistance of the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension and the Illinois School Nutrition Association.

If you have any questions, ISBE School Nutrition Programs staff can be reached at (800) 545-7892 or cnp@isbe.net.

Sign up for Administrative Review/Procurement/Resource Management Training

Registration is underway for School Nutrition Programs Administrative Review/Procurement/Resource Management Training workshops scheduled across the state. The workshops are free and will be presented by Illinois State Board of Education Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division staff.

All four workshops offered are scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with a working lunch provided. Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. Here are the dates scheduled:

- **Fairview Heights: Nov. 9** at the Four Points Sheraton Fairview Heights
- **Springfield: Nov. 10** at the Crowne Plaza
- **Lisle: Nov. 15** at the Hilton Lisle
- **Alsip: Nov. 16** at the DoubleTree Alsip

The workshops are offered to train school personnel on the requirements of the SNP administrative review process. General procurement training is designed to provide schools with information regarding the proper procedures to be used in the procurement of contracts for foods and goods (not meal services contracts) in SNP. The resource management portion is designated for superintendents, business managers, and/or those staff responsible for the financial aspects of the district.

To register, visit <http://isbe.net/nutrition/default.htm> and click the “SNP Administrative Review/Procurement/Resource Management Training” link under the “Child Nutrition Programs Workshops” header. Please note that seating is limited so register today!

If you have any questions, please contact our division staff at (800) 545-7892 or via email cnp@isbe.net.

Data Analysis

2016-17 Immunization/Health Exam and Eye Exam Data Collection

Immunization/Health Examination Data

The Student Health Immunization System is open for data entry through Nov. 15. The data must be submitted online using IWAS. Once logged into IWAS, the “Student Health Data – Immunization” link will appear on the System Listing page under “Annual.”

Below are important links to reference when submitting your data:

- Student Health Data – Immunization System – IWAS User Guide for Electronic Submission: www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/immunization_user_guide.pdf
- Immunization Data Entry Worksheet: www.isbe.net/research/xls/immunization_worksheet.xlsx
- How to Calculate Actual Unduplicated Count of Students: www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/UnduplicatedCount.pdf

As mandated by Section 5/27-8.1 of the School Code, immunization/health examination data must be submitted for all Illinois schools in grades PreK-12 by **11:59 p.m. Nov. 15**.

A report must be submitted for every eligible school, without exception. Schools that are not the home school for any student should submit the report by selecting the option that declares they have no data to report. All eligible schools should receive IWAS inbox messages regarding the Student Health Data - Immunization Data Collection. Please check your IWAS inbox for reminders and updates.

Eye Examination Data

The Student Health Vision System is open for data entry through June 30, 2017. The data must be submitted online in this timeframe using IWAS. Once logged into IWAS, the “Student Health Data – Immunization” link will appear on the System Listing page under “Annual.”

Below are links to important related documents. Please use them for assistance with submitting your data.

- Student Health Data – Vision System – IWAS User Guide for Electronic Submission: www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/vision_iwas_guide.pdf
- Eye Examination Data Entry Worksheet: www.isbe.net/research/xls/eye_exam_wksht.xls
- School Eye Examinations – Information Sheet: www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/eye_examinations.pdf

As mandated by Section 5/27-8.1 of the School Code, vision data must be submitted for all eligible schools serving kindergarten and any students enrolled for the first time in an Illinois school as of Oct. 17, 2016, by **11:59 p.m. June 30**.

A report must be submitted for every eligible school, without exception. Schools that are not the home school for any student should submit the report by selecting the option that declares they have no data to report. This option may also be selected by home schools that do not serve kindergarten students and had no students in grades 1-12 enrolling for the first time in an Illinois school. All eligible schools should receive IWAS inbox messages regarding Student Health Data -Vision Data Collection. Please check your IWAS inbox for reminders and updates.

Questions

Questions regarding school health issues should be referred to Jessica Gerdes at (312) 814-5560 or jgerdes@isbe.net. Questions regarding the information entered for immunization/health examination and eye examination data collection should be referred to Data Analysis at (217) 782-3950 or mrbeiro@isbe.net. For technical assistance with IWAS, please contact the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

Final EIS Deadline for Employment/Position Data Approaching

This notice is to remind districts that the final deadline to submit data for Employment Information System (EIS) employment, position records, and noncertified aggregated full time equivalent (FTE) counts is **Nov. 1** to align with new 5Essentials reporting requirements.

Certain data elements have been enhanced or introduced, in accordance with federal law. This was

covered in the September webinar “[Introduction to 2017 EIS: New Features and Updates](#).”

Again, the final deadline for 2016-17 employment, position records, and noncertified employee aggregated FTE counts is **Nov. 1**. Please submit the data using IWAS or batch files.

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

Grant Accountability & Transparency Act

FY 2017 Indirect Cost Rates

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 <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.

Notice of State Award and Grant Agreement Pages in eGMS

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

Please remember to check the grantee status report which 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 updates the link daily 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.

In Brief

District Opportunities

- Applications to participate in **TECH 2017** are now being accepted. Each year, hundreds of students and teachers from across the state come together at the State Capitol Building in Springfield to speak with

legislators about the innovative ways in which they use technology to enhance student learning. The window to submit an application is now open and closes on Feb. 3, 2017. Find out more information, including how your district can be one of the 100 schools representing Illinois' classrooms, at www.iceberg.org/tech/.

Grant Opportunities

- The Chef Ann Foundation will host an informational webinar at 3 p.m. on Nov. 2 on its **School Food Support Initiative grant opportunity**. Sign up at www.thelunchbox.org/programs/webinars/. The Life Time Foundation, Chef Ann Foundation, and Whole Kids Foundation have teamed up provide technical assistance grants for up to seven U.S. districts in 2017. Applications are currently being accepted for the 18-month technical assistance program. For more information about program services and eligibility criteria, as well as a link to the online application, visit <http://www.chefannfoundation.org/programs-and-grants/school-food-support-initiative/>.

Educator Opportunities

- Apply now for the **Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators**. This award recognizes outstanding K-12 teachers who employ innovative approaches to environmental education and use the environment as a context for learning. Award winners receive up to \$2,500 to continue their professional development in environmental education. Additionally, the teacher's local education agency will receive up to \$2,500 to fund environmental educational activities and programs. Applications are due on March 1. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/education/presidential-innovation-award-environmental-educators.

Student Opportunities

- The **National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists** is seeking high school students selected to become delegates by their teachers, principals, or counselors based on their dedication to entering the medical field to attend one of the annual summer Congresses in Boston on June 25, 26, and 27, where they are mentored by leading figures in science and technology. For more information, visit www.futuredocs.com/.

- Apply now for the **Presidential Environmental Youth Award program**, which promotes awareness of our nation's natural resources and encourages positive community involvement. Since 1971, the president has joined with EPA to recognize young people across the United States for protecting our nation's air, water, land, and ecology. Up to two awards - one for grades K-5 and one for grades 6-12—will be selected from each of EPA's 10 regions for national recognition. Projects are developed by young individuals, school groups, summer camps, and other youth organizations to promote environmental stewardship. Applications are due on March 1. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/education/presidents-environmental-youth-award.
- Veterans of Foreign Wars is partnering with schools to offer scholarship programs such as the **Patriot's Pen Contest (grades 6-8) and the Voice of Democracy Contest (grades 9-12)**. The entry deadline is Nov. 1. For more information, please visit www.vfw.org/youth/.
- The **U.S. Department of State** has announced scholarship opportunities for American high school students to study abroad. For more information, visit www.exchanges.state.gov.

Rebate Program

- The Environmental Protection Agency's **2016 School Bus Rebate Program** is now accepting applications. This rebate program replaces and retrofits older school buses in both the public and private fleets. To learn more about the program, applicant eligibility, and the selection process, visit www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/clean-diesel-rebates.

Employment Opportunities

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