



Weekly Message

Nov. 2, 2016

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

On Monday, ISBE released the 2016 Illinois Report Card at www.illinoisreportcard.com, providing a comprehensive annual informational snapshot of public education across the state. Overall, our Report Card indicators mostly held steady during the 2015-16 school year -- a testament to the commitment and resourcefulness of educators and administrators across the state, who deeply felt our state's education funding challenges. I cannot hide my admiration for what has been achieved in the face of these incredible funding challenges. However, the picture that we have maintained is not one to celebrate; while some students are achieving at remarkable levels, the majority of the generation of students entrusted to us are unprepared for the world of work and for meaningful participation in our communities.

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I want to acknowledge the staggering forfeiture of potential illustrated by the Report Card as the price we pay for inadequately and inequitably funding the education of Illinois' children. If we hope to make Illinois a state where whole, healthy children are nested in whole, healthy systems, and where all citizens are socially and economically secure, we must fundamentally change the way we fund our public schools.

I encourage educators, district leaders, families, and stakeholders to look at their schools' performances across the many and varied indicators on the Report Card and to use the data to ignite conversations about how to improve public education in Illinois for the benefit of all students. I encourage everyone to seek out opportunities to learn from and collaborate with neighboring schools and districts, which have strengths and strategies to share.

As I travel the state, I see countless examples of innovation and ingenuity expanding pathways for students. Last week, I witnessed the tremendous outcomes and hard work of the Home Construction Consortium, a partnership between the school districts of Alwood, Annawan, Cambridge, Galva, Stark County, and Wethersfield. The consortium teaches students how to build a house from the ground up; the students are starting their fourth house this fall. I also had the opportunity to speak with students via a virtual classroom through the Distance Learning Consortium. The partnerships between these districts to provide students with more opportunities have been shown to benefit all of the communities involved.

I am constantly driven by the awe-inspiring work that continues around the state, even in times of financial straits.

I would also like to [congratulate Jason Xia](#), a junior at Naperville North, who was the only student in the world this past May to get a perfect score on the AP Physics exam. Congrats, Jason, on a literal world class accomplishment!

Have a great 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>.

- **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)
- **Deadline to submit Illinois Arts Education Week posters** – Dec. 6 (www.isbe.net/arts-week/default.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

Supplemental Report Card Data Available on ISBE Webpage

In addition to the launch of the 2016 Illinois Report Card at www.illinoisreportcard.com, additional data and information is available at isbe.net/assessment/report_card.htm.

Supplemental data and information include the following:

- **Illinois State Report Card (PDF)**
- **Access to all PDF versions of Report Cards (school and district)**
- **15-Year Statewide Trend Data (2002-16)**

- **2016 Report Card FAQ**
- **2016 Report Card Definitions and Sources**
- **Assessment Participation Data (statewide, districts, and subgroup); Online/Paper**
- **Assessment Performance Data (grade-level, school, district, and subgroup)**
- **Postsecondary Remediation Report**
- **5Essentials Survey Results**
- **Raw Report Card data files**

If you have any questions, please contact reportcard@isbe.net.

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 remaining professional development event is from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. and is free.

- Nov. 8 at Joliet PDA, 2705 McDonough St., Joliet. To register, go to www.pdaonline.org/Registration/WorkshopDetail.php?id=161108W-1.

Every Student Succeeds Act

Round Three of Statewide Listening Tour

ISBE, with assistance from Regional Offices of Education, is hosting a third round of listening tour meetings to collect feedback on ESSA. A series of meetings will be held across the state to provide overview information on ESSA and allow participants to engage in a group discussion regarding the ESSA State Plan. The second draft of the plan will be released in mid-November and will be posted at isbe.net/essa. Comments may be sent to essa@isbe.net.

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

Supplement not Supplant Regulations

On Sept. 6, the U.S. Department of Education posted notice of proposed rulemaking regarding [supplement not supplant regulations](http://www.regulations.gov). 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.

Illinois Arts Education Week

Entries Sought for Annual Poster Contest

High 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.

Education Technology

Illinois Education & Technology Conference (IETC 2016)

The 23rd annual Illinois Education & Technology Conference will be held Nov. 16-18. IETC 2016 is a three-day professional development conference focused on technology integration strategies, engaging instructional practices, digital tools and resources, and emerging trends for teachers, administrators, and technology staff. Learn, explore, and connect with other innovative educators to harness the power of technology and prepare future-ready students. For more information and to register, visit www.il-edtech.org.

Rules and Waivers

Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that one set of amendments recently adopted by ISBE became effective Oct. 24. Changes have been posted at www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm.

Please choose “Rules Currently in Effect” and scroll to the Part number.

Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grants: See Sections 235.100, 235.105, 235.110, 235.120, 235.130, and 235.140).

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.

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.

Grant Accountability & Transparency Act

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. The completion status of all 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 Internal Control Questionnaire (ICQ) and/or ISBE IWAS 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.

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.

FY 2017 Indirect Cost Rates

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

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) may utilize either the indirect cost rate the LEA negotiates annually with ISBE (school districts) or the statewide average indirect cost rate calculated by ISBE (Regional Offices of Education, Intermediate Service Centers, special education cooperatives, area vocational centers,

charter schools, and university laboratory schools approved by ISBE). These LEAs will also utilize the ISBE-established indirect cost rates for state and federally funded grant programs administered by other state agencies.

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

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

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.

In Brief

School Health Staff Recognition

- Congratulations to two Illinois school nurses who were honored recently at the annual conference of the Illinois Association of School Nurses, held in Springfield. **Linda Kimel, MS, BSN, RN, PEL-CSN**, was named School Nurse of the Year. Nurse Kimel, a resident of Rockford, has been with the Rockford Public Schools (District 205) for 22 years. She is head coach for the Rockford Public Schools Special Olympics Team and a past recipient of the Special Education Nurse of the Year awarded by the National Association of School Nurses. She serves on the Illinois State Board of Education's School Health Advisory Council.

Eva Detloff, MEd, BSN, PN, PEL-CSN, NCSN, was named School Nurse Administrator of the Year. Nurse Detloff, a resident of Cary, is the nursing coordinator for Barrington CUSD #220.

Classroom Resources

- The **Veterans National Education Program (V-NEP)** provides free resources for teaching modern history and current conflicts from World War II to the present time. The organization also has created the [Global Awareness Map](#) initiative, an online, interactive tool that offers more than 600 video clips that encourage middle and high school students to explore real-world problems and challenges in more than 40 countries. For more information, visit <http://v-nep.org>.

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.
- 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.

Employment Opportunities

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