



Weekly Message

Nov. 15, 2016

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Dear Illinois Educators,

I recently (Sept. 20) had the pleasure of addressing a gathering at the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability's annual fiscal symposium. The focus of my talk was about the "why" of education funding in Illinois. I shared that I believe that fair access to high-quality public education is essential to ensuring that all of our communities across Illinois are socially, economically, and civically healthy.

Since our presidential election one week ago, there have been reports of students being called derogatory names and being told to "go back where you came from." Students are reporting incidents of racism, sexism, and homophobia in our schools. I've heard many people asking questions about what is going to happen in our schools and what our role as educators is in this moment. My impression is that Illinois educators have immense power to determine the answers to those questions. The people I've met in our schools across Illinois have shown me the myriad ways they've included and engaged students in the complex work of preparing them for success in the world that's unfolding. Students have shared their interests, concerns, and questions with me. I've heard from educators and students in all parts of Illinois – rural communities, suburban townships, urban centers -- who hope for opportunities to make their communities, Illinois, our country, and the world a better place. As you know from my weekly messages, I've been encouraged by what I've seen across our state despite the challenges we've faced in public education. I truly appreciate the work you do.

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As to the question of "What's to come?": I believe we are of the best and highest use as human beings when we take responsibility for what matters to us. This is a time of transformation and possibility. As encouraged as I've been, it's also very clear that we have more work to do. Too many students haven't had the opportunity to develop to their full potential, and our state and country suffer when that happens. I can't stand knowing that children -- through no fault of their own -- are excluded from the opportunity to experience a high-quality education. Disrupting the systems that perpetuate this inequity and rob our communities of everyone's full potential and gifts matters deeply to me. Building inclusive systems that amplify potential and strengthen healthy communities matters deeply to me. And I know these things matter to you -- the educators who work with students in communities across Illinois every day.

As hard as it feels sometimes, I think we are fortunate to have the opportunity to serve as leaders in education at a moment when our national conversation is wrestling with how to recognize and include more voices in our American story. The stories of all children deserve telling and nurturing. As educators, we have to protect the space where all students can ask their questions and share their stories. We cannot afford to silence any voice in this moment of national soul-searching. I believe our public schools have the unique role of explicitly expecting all members of the school community to explore and question what they believe and investigate new ideas. Building the habit of empathy and learning how to consider other perspectives are essential to critical thinking and problem-solving. Ensuring our students learn how to challenge ideas without using insulting or demeaning language is part of our special charge as educators. Learning happens when we experience disequilibrium and uncertainty. However, as we know from personal

experience and mounting evidence from brain research, learning happens best when we feel SAFE. Educators in our schools and communities are charged with creating and maintaining that safe space while preparing young people to participate in democratic civic life.

This is very complex work. Our classrooms in Illinois are as diverse as any in the country. How we simultaneously heal the as-yet-unrecognized and unacknowledged trauma of some, describe the privilege of others in ways that encourage self-reflection, and create new opportunity structures so that there are no “others” in our schools or communities is a leadership challenge that matters to me. I believe educators in Illinois are up to this challenge as we prepare our students to participate in leading our state to a more productive future.

As a leader at the Illinois State Board of Education, I have the power to help shape the language and the narrative we use as a state agency. Our agency has the power to tell a story that meaningfully connects our state, highlights the ways that our individual fates are linked in Illinois, and that forcefully rejects the notion that some children and families are the “others” or don’t belong. As students, teachers, principals, community providers, district office staff, superintendents, and Board members, you have the power to shape the story in every school and community in Illinois. Our students, families, and staff have the right to both feel and be safe in every school every day. That is hard work and we haven’t been as successful as we had hoped. I believe we can do better than we’ve done so far.

Let’s use this moment to reach out, welcome, include, and fully embrace each and every child in our schools so that our students are more successful than ever before.

The work we are doing together across Illinois to create our Every Student Succeeds Act State Plan is potentially transformative. I’m more hopeful than ever that Illinois can lead the country as an example of a state that made fair access to high-quality education a reality. Together we can implement a plan that gives our more than 850 school districts enough support to maximize the potential of every student and strengthen every community. We can become the first state where each and every student in our care consistently reaches their full potential!

I am asking every educator in Illinois to help write this next chapter -- to create the schools we all crave, where we feel well known and well cared for, feel a sense of belonging, and where we are expected to do our very best as we become our best selves. Now more than ever is the time for the hearts, minds, and hands of educators to shape our future. I believe we get the future we work and lead for.

Respectfully,

Tony

Upcoming ISBE Dates and Deadlines

Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings, and deadlines. For questions, call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663 or (217) 782-4321 or visit the agency’s official website at <http://www.isbe.net>.

- **Deadline to submit 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>)
- **FY 18 Budget Hearing (Chicago)** – Nov. 18 (<http://www.isbe.net/budget/fy18/fy-18-hearing-schedule.pdf>)
- **FY 18 Budget Hearing (Granite City)** – Nov. 21 (<http://www.isbe.net/budget/fy18/fy-18-hearing-schedule.pdf>)
- **ISBE offices closed for Thanksgiving** – Nov. 24-25

- ESSA Listening Tour Stop # 1 and # 2 (Chicago and Jacksonville) – Nov. 28 (www.isbe.net/essa/)
- FY17 NCLB/ESSA Monitoring Instrument – Nov. 30
- FY17 NCLB/ESSA Title I Comparability Analysis – Nov. 30
- ESSA Listening Tour Stop # 3 (Indian Prairie) – Dec. 1 (www.isbe.net/essa/)
- FY 17 School Technology Revolving Loan Program application deadline – Dec. 1 (www.isbe.net/ed-technology/html/revolving_loan.htm)
- ESSA Listening Tour Stop # 4 (Proviso Township) – Dec. 5 (www.isbe.net/essa/)
- ESSA Listening Tour Stop # 5 (Chicago) – Dec. 6 (www.isbe.net/essa/)
- Deadline to submit Illinois Arts Education Week posters – Dec. 6 (www.isbe.net/arts-week/default.htm)
- ESSA Listening Tour Stop # 6 and # 7 (Crystal Lake and Galesburg) – Dec. 7 (www.isbe.net/essa/)
- ESSA Listening Tour Stop # 8 (Decatur) – Dec. 8 (www.isbe.net/essa/)
- 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
- FY 17 IDEA excess cost worksheets due to IDEA grant coordinators – Jan. 31
- 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

Center for Performance

5Essentials Learning Survey Opens Nov. 16

The [Illinois 5Essentials Survey](#) will open Nov. 16. Teachers, students, and parents will be able to complete the survey Nov. 16 through Jan. 16, 2017. The survey is required for districts that did not participate in last year's survey or administer an alternative survey. If your district completed the 5Essentials during the 2015-16 school year, it may -- but is not required to -- administer the survey in the 2016-17 school year. The 5Essentials Survey will be available at no cost for all participants.

Districts may elect or may be [required](#) to participate in this year's survey. Please make sure that your educator and student information is updated and valid, as the data required for rostering students and teachers will be pulled from the Student Information System and the Employment Information System, respectively.

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

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 www.isbe.net/essa. Comments may be sent to essa@isbe.net.

For additional information and to download a detailed schedule, please visit www.isbe.net/essa/.

Illinois Report Card

Supplemental Report Card Data Available on ISBE Webpage

Additional data and information regarding the [2016 Illinois Report Card](#) 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.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

Nov. 16 Webinar: Group Purchasing Organizations, Agents, Third-Party Entities and Buy American

On Oct. 20, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published SP02-2017, SFSP02-2017, CACFP03-2017 Q&A: Purchasing Goods and Services Using Cooperative Agreements and Third-Party Services for all program operators to provide general guidance on the various procurement groups FNS has identified. This memorandum superseded SP 35-2012, Procuring Services of Purchasing Cooperatives, Group Purchasing Organizations, Group Buying Organizations, etc., dated June 12, 2012. FNS will host a webinar to review this guidance 1-2 p.m. on Nov. 16.

To participate in the webinar, please register at <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/kwe8bqmrpms7&eom>.

Summary of New Rules: Physical Fitness Assessment, Data Collection, & Reporting

[Public Act 98-0859](#), signed into law on Aug. 4, 2014, created the Stakeholder and Expert Task Force on Physical Education (SETFPE) composed of members representing organizations that represent physical education teachers, school officials, principals, health

promotion and disease prevention advocates and experts, school health advocates and experts, and other experts with operational and academic expertise in the measurement of fitness. The SETFPE was tasked with submitting recommendations to ISBE on physical fitness assessments as well as the collection and reporting of aggregate student fitness data. The SETFPE submitted its recommendations to ISBE and, after seeking public comment, ISBE adopted fitness assessment and data collection rules for Illinois schools ([Part 1, Section 1.425](#)) effective in the 2016-17 school year.

Starting with school year 2016-17, schools must:

- Ensure that school personnel administering the assessments participate in **training** related to the proper administration and scoring of each of the four required FitnessGram assessments outlined below. At a minimum, staff must review the required administration manuals and it is recommended that staff also view training videos.
- Ensure district maintains **evidence** of individual school personnel's successful completion of the training and make it available to the ISBE upon request.
- Establish procedures and protocols to ensure the **confidentiality** of individual student assessment results consistent with the requirements of the Illinois School Records Act and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.
- Begin administering, in the second semester and each year thereafter, the following **four FitnessGram assessments** (first semester assessment is optional and will not be reported):
 - for Aerobic Capacity - the PACER test (recommended) or Mile Run Test (alternate) or Brockport test (any of the adapted tests for aerobic functioning for students with disabilities) for students in grades 4-12; (Note: If your district chooses the alternate Mile Run Test, student height and weight will need to be collected in order to calculate healthy fitness zones.)

- for Flexibility - the Back-Saver Sit and Reach test (recommended) or Trunk Lift test (alternate), or Brockport test (any of the adapted tests for flexibility or range of motion for students with disabilities) for students in grades 3-12;
 - for Muscular Endurance - the Curl-Up test or Brockport test (any of the adapted tests for strength and endurance for students with disabilities) for students in grades 3-12; and
 - for Muscular Strength – the Push-Up test or Brockport test (any of the adapted tests for strength and endurance for students with disabilities) for students in grades 3-12.
- By each district's established date, **collect** the second semester aggregate data outlined below from its schools. The district in turn must report results electronically to ISBE through the Student Health Data Section in IWAS by May 1 (possibly June 30*) of each year.
 - number of students tested by grade (5, 7, and 10 only) and gender;
 - number of students that achieved a healthy fitness zone by grade (5, 7, and 10 only) and gender;
 - number of students that were identified as needing improvement by grade (5, 7, and 10 only) and gender; and
 - for aerobic capacity only, number of students that were identified as needing improvement-health risk by grade (5, 7, and 10 only) and gender.

*ISBE will consider a [proposed amendment](#) to Part 1 of ISBE's Rules that changes reporting deadline from May 1st to June 30 during the Nov. 18 Board meeting. If approved, date change will go to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules for final consideration and certification in December or January.

For further assistance, **including links to training manuals and videos**, please visit our Q&A document at <http://www.isbe.net/EPE/pdf/fitness-asmt-faq.pdf> or email Mrs. Shawn Backs at sbacks@isbe.net.

Nominations Sought From Districts for Training Course Opportunity

Produce Safety University (PSU) and Serving Up Science: The Path to Safe Food in Schools are teaming up for a one-week, all-expenses-paid training course offered to local school district partners. A limited number of Illinois school district partners may be nominated to attend. Participants must have a current role in training school foodservice staff at the school district and school levels. Participants will be expected to teach others about the subject matter learned using the comprehensive training materials provided to all attendees.

If you have any questions about PSU or Serving Up Science: The Path to Safe Food in Schools, or the nomination process, please contact Roxanne Ramage (rramage@isbe.net) via at (800) 545-7892. More information about PSU may be found at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/ofs/produce-safety-university>. Please view a short promotional video about Serving Up Science: The Path to Safe Food in Schools at <http://cnsafefood.k-state.edu/resources/serving-up-science/>.

If you are interested in being nominated to attend Serving Up Science: The Path to Safe Food in Schools, please submit a letter of intent to Roxanne Ramage (rramage@isbe.net) as soon as possible but no later than Nov. 28. If you are selected, ISBE will require an approval letter from the school district's superintendent prior to nomination to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as attendance at PSU or Serving Up Science: The Path to Safe Food in Schools is a week-long commitment.

Sign Up for Webinar on 'State ESSA Plan to Support Student Health and Wellness'

Registration is underway for the Healthy Schools Campaign's "Healthy and Ready to Learn: State ESSA Plans to Support Student Health and Wellness" webinar, which is set for 11 a.m. to noon Thursday, Nov. 17.

States around the country are working to develop state plans to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA recognizes the need for schools to support the whole child and specifically acknowledges the importance of student health and wellness. The Healthy Schools Campaign and Alliance for Healthier Generation will be releasing “Healthy and Ready to Learn: State ESSA Plans to Support Student Health and Wellness” to help school health advocates and others take advantage of this unprecedented opportunity to integrate health and wellness into education policy and practice.

This webinar is an opportunity to learn about this important resource and connect with other advocates working to advance student health and school wellness through ESSA state plans. For more information and to register, visit <https://healthyschoolscampaign.org/hsc-event/healthy-ready-learn-state-essa-plans-support-student-health-wellness/>.

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**.

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

Student Recognition

- Congrats to **Glenbard South High School student Luke Angelillo** for his perfect 5 on the Advanced Placement U.S. History exam. Angelillo is one of three students in the world who earned every point possible on the exam. Great job, Luke!

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** 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](http://www.v-nep.org) 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

- Prevent School Violence Illinois (PSVI) is hosting a workshop, **Everyone Can Do Something: Addressing Bullying Through Effective School Climate Transformation**, on Dec. 8-9 in Collinsville. The interactive workshop-style sessions are for school teams, including administrators, teachers, support staff, security, and community partners. Also, on Dec. 8 PSVI will host a one-day youth summit for a group of 15-20 students (ages 12-17) from the schools represented at the conference. For more information, please contact sarah@psvillinois.org.

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

- **Parchment Connect: Illinois** hosted by Northern Illinois University is holding a one-day, free event for Illinois secondary and postsecondary education communities. The event is 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Nov. 17 at NIU in DeKalb. For more information and to register, please visit the [ISAC website](#).
- **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.

Employment Opportunities

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