



# Weekly Message

**Nov. 22, 2016**

## Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

Thanksgiving provides us with time to reflect on the gifts and opportunities in our lives. Your hard work pushes us closer every day to our vision of whole, healthy children nested in whole, healthy systems; so with great sincerity, I want to say thank you.

**Thank you for your resourcefulness and dedication in times of financial uncertainty.**

I appreciate all who shared their stories and input at our budget hearings for fiscal year 2018, which we completed this week. I am inspired by the efforts of educators and community members across the state to build inclusive systems that support all of our diverse students, despite inadequate and inequitable resources. If you were not able to attend the hearings, you may submit your feedback until the end of this week by completing a [budget request form](#) and emailing it to [isbeFY18@isbe.net](mailto:isbeFY18@isbe.net).

**Thank you for your leadership and innovation.**

I appreciate your enthusiasm to try new approaches to unlocking each student’s potential. Last Friday, ISBE launched a pilot program allowing 12 school districts to replace high school graduation requirements with a competency-based learning system of the district’s design. I encourage school district leaders and community partners to consider applying! In competency-based learning, educators assess and advance students based on demonstrated mastery of specific skills, abilities, and knowledge, rather than on time in the classroom. [Access the application here](#) and tune into the webinar at 10 a.m. on Nov. 30.

**Thank you for your active commitment to the future of Illinois.**

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) presents an opportunity for us to re-evaluate how we can better support the strengths and needs of each and every child. Last week, we shared [ESSA State Plan Draft #2](#), a result of the hard work of ISBE staff and stakeholders across Illinois. Comments must be submitted to [essa@isbe.net](mailto:essa@isbe.net) by Dec. 27. Our third round of listening tour meetings begins next week. Please share your feedback and encourage others in your communities to share their feedback as well. For more information, visit [www.isbe.net/ESSA](http://www.isbe.net/ESSA). Thank you for your input and expertise.

**Thank you for your tenacity and growth.**

Because of the outstanding promise demonstrated by every school in the state, I was elected to the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Board of Directors. I am honored to serve in this role. ESSA returns more autonomy to the states, so education leaders have an unprecedented opportunity to collaborate on effective strategies to ensure all students

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feel welcomed and supported and receive the preparation they need for both college and career. I look forward to helping to facilitate the important work of CCSSO and its members.

**Finally, thank you for challenging our students to think critically and preparing them to be responsible and engaged citizens.** When our schools provide safe and inclusive learning environments for all students, our communities flourish. As we enter the holiday season, we want to highlight all of the great ways your schools and districts are saying thank you to each other. Tag us in your posts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or email your stories and pictures to [social\\_media@isbe.net](mailto:social_media@isbe.net).

Happy Thanksgiving!

Tony

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### **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 Thanksgiving** – Nov. 24-25
- **ESSA Listening Tour Stop # 1 and # 2 (Chicago and Jacksonville)** – Nov. 28 ([www.isbe.net/essa/](http://www.isbe.net/essa/))
- **Competency-Based High School Graduation Requirements Pilot Webinar** – Nov. 30 (<http://www.isbe.net/ed-technology/html/competency-based-pilot.htm>)
- **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/](http://www.isbe.net/essa/))
- **FY 17 School Technology Revolving Loan Program application deadline** – Dec. 1 ([www.isbe.net/ed-technology/html/revolving\\_loan.htm](http://www.isbe.net/ed-technology/html/revolving_loan.htm))
- **ESSA Listening Tour Stop # 4 (Proviso Township)** – Dec. 5 ([www.isbe.net/essa/](http://www.isbe.net/essa/))
- **ESSA Listening Tour Stop # 5 (Chicago)** – Dec. 6 ([www.isbe.net/essa/](http://www.isbe.net/essa/))
- **Deadline to submit Illinois Arts Education Week posters** – Dec. 6 ([www.isbe.net/arts-week/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/arts-week/default.htm))
- **ESSA Listening Tour Stop # 6 and # 7 (Crystal Lake and Galesburg)** – Dec. 7 ([www.isbe.net/essa/](http://www.isbe.net/essa/))
- **ESSA Listening Tour Stop # 8 (Decatur)** – Dec. 8 ([www.isbe.net/essa/](http://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
- **ESSA State Plan Draft #2 Comments Due** – Dec. 27 ([www.isbe.net/ESSA](http://www.isbe.net/ESSA))
- **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](http://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

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## **Competency-Based High School Graduation Requirements Pilot**

### **ISBE Hosting Informative Webinar Nov. 30**

The steps we take toward preparing all students for college and career must include trying new approaches to unlocking each student's potential. On Friday, ISBE launched the call for applications for the Competency-Based High School Graduation Requirements Pilot. The pilot will allow up to 12 innovative school districts may replace high school graduation requirements with a competency-based learning system of the district's design. In competency-based learning, educators assess and advance students based on demonstrated mastery of specific skills, abilities, and knowledge, rather than on time in the classroom. ISBE will host a webinar at 10 a.m. Nov. 30 with experts on competency-based learning for stakeholders who want to learn more. Register for the webinar and access the application at [www.isbe.net/ed-technology/html/competency-based-pilot.htm](http://www.isbe.net/ed-technology/html/competency-based-pilot.htm).

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## **Every Student Succeeds Act**

### **Draft of ESSA State Plan #2 Released**

The draft of the Illinois' ESSA State Plan #2 was presented to the Board at its meeting on Nov. 18. The draft is available at [www.isbe.net/essa/](http://www.isbe.net/essa/).

ESSA State Plan #2 provides information on accountability, assessments, and statewide system of support, among other topics, for all schools in Illinois. Throughout the draft, there are a series of questions on topics where ISBE requests additional insight from the field. ISBE encourages individuals to read the plan and share their ideas, critiques, and potential solutions.

When submitting comments, please include the name of individual and/or organization, section number, and page number. **All comments should be submitted to [essa@isbe.net](mailto:essa@isbe.net) no later Dec. 27.**

### **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 was posted Friday at [www.isbe.net/essa](http://www.isbe.net/essa). Comments may be sent to [essa@isbe.net](mailto:essa@isbe.net).

For additional information and to download a detailed schedule, please visit [www.isbe.net/essa/](http://www.isbe.net/essa/).

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## **Rules and Waivers**

### **Notice of Emergency Rule**

Please be advised that one set of amendments recently adopted by ISBE became effective Nov. 18. Changes have been posted at [www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm). Please choose "Rules Currently in Effect" and scroll to the Part number.

**Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision) See Sections 1.423 and 1.Appendix H.**

### **Invitation to Comment on Rules**

One set of proposed amendments recently reviewed by ISBE are now available for public comment. The proposals and a summary of the issues involved have been posted at [www.isbe.net/rules](http://www.isbe.net/rules); choose "Proposed Rules and Amendments." Please submit any comments or suggestions to [rules@isbe.net](mailto:rules@isbe.net).

The public comment period ends Jan. 16, 2017. The rulemaking is **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)**.

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## **Nutrition and Wellness Programs**

### **Local School Wellness Policy Resources Available for Schools**

Download the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Team Nutrition toolkit of communication materials you can customize to make specific to your school.

Toolkit contents:

- Letter to the principal from local wellness policy coordinators
- Newsletter article
- Parent handouts (English and Spanish)

- Presentations for school staff and parents
- Social media graphics and posts

Go to [www.fns.usda.gov/tn/local-school-wellness-policy-outreach-toolkit](http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/local-school-wellness-policy-outreach-toolkit) to get started.

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program are required to develop a Wellness Policy with the objectives of improving the school nutrition environment, promoting student health, and reducing childhood obesity. For more information, visit [http://isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/wellness\\_policy.htm](http://isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/wellness_policy.htm).

### ISBE Purchases Software for NSLP Sponsors; Sign Up by Dec. 1

There is still time to sign up for free school nutrition programs software courtesy of the Illinois State Board of Education if you have not already done so. The deadline to sign up is **Dec. 1**, unless the maximum allotment of school districts is reached sooner.

ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division is teaming up with Heartland School Solutions to provide National School Lunch Program sponsors free access to Mosaic. This opportunity is a value of nearly \$2,500 based on current pricing for the Menu Planning District and Site Licenses and Ordering and Inventory District and Site Licenses.

To sign up for access to the software and for additional information, visit

<http://info.heartlandschoolsolutions.com/isbe>. Mosaic will be free of charge through June 2019 for participating districts. There is no obligation for districts to continue after that. Check out a short video about the software at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H30xV9qh9OM>.

The district's Agreement Number, or RCDT number, is required for sign up. You will also need the name and approval of district/sponsor's Authorized Representative. Both the RCDT number and the sponsor's official Authorized Representative are listed for the sponsor in the Web-based Illinois Nutrition System.

Visit

<http://info.heartlandschoolsolutions.com/isbe#faq> for a list of frequently asked questions. Contact the Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division at (800) 545-7892 or [cnp@isbe.net](mailto:cnp@isbe.net). For Mosaic specific questions, email Heartland School Solutions at

[mosaicmpsupport@e-hps.com](mailto:mosaicmpsupport@e-hps.com). **Please note:** Districts may receive calls about the free software offer in the coming days from Heartland School Solutions.

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:sbacks@isbe.net).

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### **Center for Performance**

#### **5Essentials Learning Survey is now open**

The [Illinois 5Essentials Survey](#) is now open. Teachers, students, and parents will be able to complete the survey from now 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](mailto:5Essentials@isbe.net).

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### **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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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.

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](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](http://www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/CentralizedIndirectCostSystem/Pages/default.aspx).

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### **In Brief**

#### **Administrator Recognition**

- Congrats to **Dr. Jason Henry, superintendent of Sesser-Valier Community Unit District 196, for being named the 2017 Illinois Superintendent of the Year** by the Illinois Association of School Administrators!

#### **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](#) 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](mailto:sarah@psvillinois.org).

## Student Opportunities

- 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](http://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](http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm).