



Weekly Message

Nov. 29, 2016

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

Open and ongoing communication and collaboration make our schools stronger. In my time so far as State Superintendent, I have seen districts across Illinois model this leadership.

Thank you to the school and district leaders who have given feedback, either in person or online, on Illinois' draft ESSA State Plan and who have encouraged your school communities to give feedback as well. Educator input is crucial to the success of ESSA implementation in Illinois, especially as we enter the final few months of our drafting process before submitting our plan to the U.S. Department of Education April 3. As you know, ISBE released [ESSA State Plan Draft #2](#) earlier this month. Comments on Draft #2 must be submitted to essa@isbe.net by Dec. 27. A third round of listening tour meetings began this week in Chicago and Jacksonville and will conclude with stops in Aurora, Forest Park, Crystal Lake, Galesburg, and Decatur next week. For more information, visit www.isbe.net/ESSA.

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Congratulations 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! Dr. Henry has been an educator for 22 years; he previously served as a high school math teacher, elementary and junior high principal, and superintendent of Zeigler-Royalton Community Unit School District 188. Dr. Henry's commitment to community engagement serves as a model for us all. His accomplishments at Sesser-Valier include partnering with Monsanto to provide students with enriched STEM opportunities and implementing a privately funded "LIFE 101" curriculum to help students develop skills such as personal financial management and budgeting. Under Dr. Henry's leadership, the district's co-teaching program at the junior high and high school – which matched a special education teacher with a regular education teacher in English, language arts, and math classes – helped reduce the percentage of students identified as needing Individualized Educations Plans from 21 percent to 14 percent. Dr. Henry, thank you for your service!

Learn more about an opportunity to harness collaboration and unlock student potential in your district by joining ISBE and experts from the Midwest Comprehensive Center and the Center on Innovations in Learning tomorrow, **Wednesday, Nov. 30, at 10 a.m.** for a webinar on competency-based learning. ISBE has launched the call for applications for the Competency-Based High School Graduation Requirements Pilot, in which up to 12 innovative school districts may replace high school graduation

requirements with a learning system based on students' demonstrated mastery of specific skills, abilities, and knowledge rather than on time in the classroom. Register for the webinar and access the application at www.isbe.net/ed-technology/html/competency-based-pilot.htm.

I would also like to recognize the achievements of Thornton Fractional School District 215. The district has worked with the Illinois Center for School Improvement to enhance communication and collaboration between administrators and educators and to build a more data-driven culture. Watch [this video](#) to learn more.

Finally, I would like to thank the 690 dairy farmers throughout the state who have made a commitment to youth wellness and nutrition. Nine Illinois school districts received grants through the 2016 Fuel Up to Play 60 School Nutrition Grant Program to fund the expansion of school breakfast programs. Students learn better when they start the day with a healthy and nutritious meal. The students served will greatly benefit from the support of [Fuel Up to Play 60](#).

The districts awarded are:

- Chicago Public School District 299
- Community Unit School District 303
- Community Unit School District 308
- East Aurora School District 131
- Elgin School District U46
- J. Sterling Morton High School District 201
- Oak Park & River Forest School District 200
- Peoria School District 150
- Ridgeview Schools CUSD 19

Keep up the great work!

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>.

- **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/)
- **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
- ESSA State Plan Draft #2 Comments Due – Dec. 27 (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 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

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. ISBE recently launched a call for applications for the Competency-Based High School Graduation Requirements Pilot. The pilot will allow up to 12 innovative school districts to 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 for stakeholders who want to learn more about competency-based learning. Register for the webinar and access the application at www.isbe.net/ed-technology/html/competency-based-pilot.htm.

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/.

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 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 recently 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/.

Youth In Care

Reminder From DCFS Regarding Suspensions and Expulsions

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Guardianship Administrator Debra Dyer-Webster would like to remind all Illinois school districts of their obligation to notify her when children committed to her guardianship face possible suspension or expulsion. If youth in care have a serious discipline issue that involves suspension or expulsion, she can be notified by faxing a written report to the Office of the Guardian, School Discipline Division at (312) 793-3546. If the discipline involves

police or law enforcement, the Office of the Guardian should be called immediately at (312) 814-8600.

For questions, please contact the Office of the Guardian at (312) 814-8600.

Charter Schools

Charter Schools Program Quality School Options Grant

In September 2015, the Illinois State Board of Education was awarded a federal Charter Schools Program Quality School Options Grant in the amount of \$42 million for a five-year term. These funds are intended to provide financial assistance to new charter schools for allowable activities during the program design phase and start-up costs in the first two years of operation. This competitive grant will be awarded through multi-cohort competitions throughout the term of the grant. The second cohort Request for Proposal will be released in January 2017. High-quality applications may be awarded up to \$950,000 for up to three years for the design and implementation of a new charter school.

Charter schools can provide a necessary choice for schoolchildren and their parents across the entire state. Often it is a lack of funding that impedes the best-designed plans, and these funds could provide a crucial source of funding for the start-up of a new school.

District administrators, teachers, parents, community members, and local leaders are encouraged to have a conversation as to whether a charter school would provide a valued option for schoolchildren in their community.

Districts interested in providing school choice through a new charter school should refer to the Charter Schools Program grant information at www.isbe.net/charter. For additional information, you may contact Charter Schools at (312) 814-2220.

Illinois Classroom Connectivity Initiative

Register for December Webinars: Bandwidth for Your Budget

EducationSuperHighway, a key partner of the Illinois Classroom Connectivity Initiative, recently released

the full version of [Compare & Connect K-12](#). We encourage you to check out the tool's powerful new features and explore opportunities to get more bandwidth for your broadband budget.

Compare & Connect K-12 uses public E-rate application data to allow you to:

- Find out what other districts are buying to support digital learning.
- See what service providers are offering to nearby districts.
- Compare broadband options in Illinois or across the country.
- View a summary of 2016 E-rate filing.

EducationSuperHighway is offering district leaders in Illinois the opportunity to come together virtually to view your own and other districts' broadband data on Compare & Connect K-12 and discuss strategies to get more bandwidth for your budget this E-rate cycle. Please encourage your district's technology staff person to RSVP for one of the upcoming webinars in December. Space is limited.

Registration:

- Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 2:30 p.m. - [register](#)
- Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 12 p.m. - [register](#)
- Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 1:30 p.m. - [register](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Christine Bediones from EducationSuperHighway at christine@educationsuperhighway.org.

Illinois Report Card

MyIRC Train the Trainer Events

Attend the next in the ongoing series of Train the Trainer events, "What's New at MyIRC – Spotlight: PARCC," and learn 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 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at four venues and are free.

- Dec. 1 at IKAN ROE, 50 W. Industrial Park Dr., Kankakee. To register, go to https://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0044-0016-950fc93dc89640d6af476b688c85acba.
- Dec. 8 at ROE #47, 1001 West 23rd St., Sterling. To register, go to <https://sites.google.com/a/roe47.org/roe-47-professional-development/>.
- Dec. 13 at ROE #47, 1001 West 23rd St., Sterling. To register, go to <http://www.roe8.com/professional-development.html>.
- Dec. 16 at ROE #26, 130 S. Lafayette, Suite 200, Macomb. To register, go to <http://www.roepd.net/?action=workshop&recid=337&from=calendar>.

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. 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 is now available for public comment. The proposals and a summary of the issues involved have been posted at www.isbe.net/rules; choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net.

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

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 specifically 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 to get started.

Local Education Agencies 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.

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. For Mosaic specific questions, email Heartland School Solutions at mosaicmpsupport@e-hps.com. *Please note: Districts may receive calls about the free software offer in the coming days from Heartland School Solutions.*

In Brief

School Recognition

- Congrats to the **Prospect High School's Marching Knights** for being selected to be part of the opening number in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade last week!
- Congrats to **Huntley Community School District 158's Huntley High School** whose news magazine and [website](#), The Voice, were named Crown Award finalists in the high school hybrid category by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association!

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!

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.

Employment Opportunities

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