



Weekly Message

Dec. 13, 2016

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

We continue to move forward with our ESSA State Plan! The feedback we have received will help us to design supports and programming that take into account every student's unique strengths and needs and equip all students to succeed in college and career. More than 300 people attended meetings during our third statewide listening tour, which concluded last week. The tour included stops in Chicago, Jacksonville, Aurora, Forest Park, Crystal Lake, Galesburg, and Decatur. Thank you to the hard-working ISBE staff members who organized and conducted these dialogues and to the school districts and local elected officials for their hospitality. As a reminder, you have two more weeks to submit your comments on ESSA State Plan Draft #2.

Table of Contents

Every Student Succeeds Act.....	3
Funding and Disbursements	3
Charter Schools.....	3
Data Analysis.....	3
Illinois Green Ribbon Schools	4
Nutrition and Wellness Programs.....	4
In Brief.....	5

Last week, in partnership with Partners *for* Each and Every Child, ISBE released the second [Reader's Guide](#) for the draft state plan, as well as a new online engagement forum, [EngageforSchools.org](#). The Reader's Guide illustrates how stakeholder input on Draft Plan #1 has informed the new draft and underlines the questions that the plan still needs to address. The online engagement forum offers tools for further evaluation of the plan. You can view ESSA's statutory provisions and ISBE's draft plan side-by-side and read and respond to the specific questions the Readers' Guide poses. Visit www.isbe.net/essa for more updates. You may also email your feedback to essa@isbe.net through Dec. 27.

Thanks to everyone who shared their #CSEdWeek and #HourofCode events with us last week. It was exciting to see districts across the state engage students of all ages in creative coding exercises. On a related note, the U.S. Department of Education highlighted a [computer science partnership program](#) between McLean County Unit District No. 5 and Heartland Community College in its Weekly Digest Bulletin. Through the collaboration, Unit 5 students will have the opportunity to enroll in dual-credit computer science classes, enabling them to graduate with a high school diploma and an associate's degree in computer science. Beginning early next year, ISBE will be convening a task force on computer science education, which is required by PA 99-647, to analyze the current state of computer science education, identify best practices, and make recommendations to the General Assembly on or before June 1, 2017. For more information, visit www.isbe.net/CSETF/default.htm.

Congratulations to Naperville Central High School teachers Seth Brady and Randy Smith for receiving a \$100,000 grant through the Farmers Insurance Thank America's Teachers Dream Big Teacher

Challenge. The teachers' Illinois Global Scholar proposal was one of six grant recipients nationwide. Through [Public Act 99-0780](#), recently signed into law, the Illinois Global Scholar Certificate will recognize high school graduates who have attained global competence. Learn more about Illinois Global Scholar [here](#).

Finally, congratulations to Springfield High School for receiving a \$15,000 grant from AT&T for the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. AVID is geared toward ensuring that low-income students, rural students, and students of color across the district are college ready. The districtwide program provides students with intensive support, challenges them to take more rigorous classes, and empowers them with knowledge and skills they need to succeed at a four-year college.

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>.

- **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
- **Illinois Green Ribbon Schools Program Application Due** – Dec. 16 (www.usgbc-illinois.org/index.php?s=green+ribbon)
- **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
- **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.)
- **Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition, and Supervision)** – Public comment period ends Jan. 16
- **State Board of Education Meeting** – Jan. 18-19 (www.isbe.net/board/pdf/2017-board-meetings.pdf)
- **Competency-Based High School Graduation Requirements Pilot Application Deadline** – Jan. 27 (www.isbe.net/ed-technology/html/competency-based-pilot.htm)
- **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

Every Student Succeeds Act

ESSA State Plan #2 Reader's Guide Available

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/.

A [Reader's Guide](#) has also been made available to help better understand and form questions regarding the second ESSA State Plan draft. 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.**

Funding and Disbursements

FY 2017 State and Federal Project Grants – July 1 Start Date Relief

Due to the delays in publishing many of our fiscal year 2017 state and federal grants in the electronic Grants Management System (eGMS), ISBE will honor a July 1 start date to obligate approved grant expenditures for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) that were able to transmit their initial grant applications on or before the deadline that was posted in the IWAS message that was distributed when each grant application was released. July 1 start dates have been changed for those LEAs that met the respective initial application deadline and can be viewed in the Financial Reimbursement Information System Inquiry at <http://webprod1.isbe.net/FRISInquiry/>. A summary of the LEAs and the grants which have a July 1 start date honored can be found at <http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/fy17-project-start-date-changes.pdf>.

A Sept. 30 expenditure report will NOT be required for all FY 2017 state and federal grant projects with a July 1 start date change except for Title I programs.

As a reminder, cumulative expenditure reports through the period ending Dec. 31 will be due to ISBE on or before Jan. 20. The timeframe applicable for accumulation of expenditures is dependent upon the submission of each original application through Dec. 31.

Questions regarding this information can be directed to Funding and Disbursement Services staff at (217) 782-5256.

Charter Schools

Charter Schools Program Grant 2 Request for Proposal Intent to Apply Now Available

Design teams interested in applying to the Charter Schools Program Grant need to complete the FY 2017 Request for Proposal Intent to Apply in order to access the secure online Request for Proposals to be released in early 2017. The form is posted at www.isbe.net/charter/pdf/43-48A-charter-rfp-17-intent-to-apply.pdf.

Letters of intent must be submitted by Jan. 6. For any questions, please contact Claudia Quezada at cquezada@isbe.net or (312) 814-2200.

Data Analysis

2016-17 Teacher Salary Study Form Now Available

The 2016-17 Teacher Salary Study data form is now available in IWAS. These forms must be completed and submitted by **Feb. 1**.

In addition to completing the form, please send a copy of your salary schedule/policy and negotiated agreement to the address below. **This is not necessary if you provided copies of the schedule/policy and agreement previously and they are still in effect.** Send updated schedules and policies to:

Data Analysis Division
Illinois State Board of Education
100 North First Street, S-284
Springfield, Illinois 62777

For further assistance, please contact the Data Analysis Division at (217) 782-3950.

For technical assistance accessing IWAS, please contact the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

2016-17 Noncertified Staff Salary Study Survey Now Available

The 2016-17 Noncertified Staff Salary Study data survey is now available in IWAS. This form must be completed and submitted by **Feb. 1**. It is the district administrator's responsibility to review the completed survey for accuracy and submit it to ISBE.

Districts with 1,000 or more enrolled students as of the last school day in September of 2016 must submit this survey. The District administrator or a district document author may complete this survey.

Reference the following documents for assistance:

- User Guide:
<ftp://help.isbe.net/webapps/NoncertStaffSalStu dy/UserGuide.pdf>
- Example for completing the survey:
<http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/ncss-instructions-12.pdf>
- Worksheet:
<http://www.isbe.net/research/pdfs/ncss-worksheet-07.pdf>

For further assistance, please contact the Data Analysis Division at (217) 782-3950.

For technical assistance accessing IWAS, please contact the ISBE Help Desk at (217) 558-3600.

Illinois Green Ribbon Schools

Deadline for Illinois Green Ribbon Schools Program Application Dec. 16

Applications for the 2017 Illinois Green Ribbon Schools Program are due at noon on Dec. 16. The Illinois Green Ribbon Schools program recognizes schools that are leading the way to promote sustainability and environmental education. Working in partnership ISBE, U.S. Green Building Council-Illinois is accepting applications from schools that integrate best practices in energy, water and waste management, healthy school environments, and environmental education. Winning applications for the Illinois Green Ribbon program demonstrate progress and achievements in each area of the three pillars:

1. Reduce environmental impact and costs;
2. Improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff; and
3. Provide environmental education, which teaches many disciplines, and is especially good at effectively incorporating STEM, civic skills, and green career pathways.

Applications are scored by a panel of individuals with strong backgrounds in the three pillars. The top

scoring schools are submitted to the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools Program for consideration at the national level.

Click [here](#) to complete the 2017 Green Ribbon Schools application. For more information, visit www.usgbc-illinois.org/index.php?s=green+ribbon.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

USDA Plans Webinar on Web-Based Application for School Meals Dec. 15

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service will host the "Introduction to the New Web-Based Prototype Application for School Meals" webinar at 1-3 p.m. on Dec. 15.

To participate, register at <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/uj2cg9zr8lx9&eom>.

To explore the Web-Based Prototype Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals, please visit www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/web-based-prototype-application.

Organization Aims to Recognize Efforts to Promote Fruits and Veggies

Each year, the Produce for Better Health Foundation recognizes educators and health professionals for work in their communities and schools that help increase fruit and vegetable consumption.

To be recognized for your efforts, view the [Public Health or School Foodservice Role Model/Champion Criteria](#).

Send applications to imarolemodel@pbhfoundation.org. The deadline is Jan. 5.

In Brief

Student Recognition

- Congrats to **Hannah Flood**, a senior at Maine East High School in Maine Township High School District 207, for earning a perfect score on the U.S. History AP exam. Way to go, Hannah!

Student Opportunities

- Artwork submissions are being accepted for the **2017 Law Day Art Contest** from now through March 31. The contest is being hosted by the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division for students in grades 9-12. Students may compete as individuals or in groups. The theme for Law Day 2017 is "The 14th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy." For more information, go to www.ambar.org/lawday.

Professional Development

- The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is offering **Environmental and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education (ENTICE)** professional development workshops for educators. ENTICE workshops provide background information, networking opportunities, hands-on lessons, and PD hours. For more information visit www.enticeworkshops.com.

School Recognition

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

Employment Opportunities

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