



# Weekly Message

**Dec. 20, 2016**

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

Hello,

I would like to share some exciting news! As an agency, one of ISBE’s top priorities is sharing information with all of its stakeholders. ISBE will be launching a new, redesigned website tomorrow! We took in feedback both internally and externally and have designed a site with the user in mind. It is mobile-friendly and content is organized and prioritized by audience so that administrators, teachers, families and students, and communities and partners can more easily find the information they need.

The new isbe.net also offers responsive features, such as a calendar of ISBE meetings that enables users to add items to their own digital calendars. The News & Media page will host live social media feeds so you can keep up with ISBE developments and exciting work happening in districts statewide. Innovation & Ideas offers a chance to highlight learning technology and encourages sharing of great ideas across the state. Climate & Culture includes the Comprehensive System of Learning Supports, school health information, and social/emotional learning materials. New resources have also been added, such as the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services’ new guide: *“Educating and Supporting Our Children: A Guide to Education for Children and Youth in DCFS Care in Illinois,”* to help navigate the unique policies and procedures associated with youth in care. The website even introduces business intelligence, such as an interactive map function for charter schools.

To help you acclimate to the new website, we have posted a brief “How to navigate the new website” video on the homepage under “Current Topics” to assist in finding the most common pages. The “System Quick Links” on the very top of the page provides quick access to ELIS, IWAS, and other inquiry systems. The upgraded “search” feature should put the information you seek at your fingertips.

I would like to thank ISBE staff for the tremendous work they put in to make this redesign a reality. I want also to thank you for your input and guidance. The team has used your feedback to inform the website’s structure and organization. We all hope that the new website will help make ISBE more readily accessible and help you find the tools you need to foster inclusive learning environments for your students.

There will be no Weekly Message the next two weeks over the holidays. Have a wonderful break!

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 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/Pages/ESSA.aspx](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/ESSA.aspx))
- 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/Pages/Waivers.aspx](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Waivers.aspx) 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/Documents/2017-board-meetings.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/Documents/2017-board-meetings.pdf))
- Competency-Based High School Graduation Requirements Pilot Application Deadline – Jan. 27 ([www.isbe.net/Pages/Great-Ideas.aspx](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Great-Ideas.aspx))
- 5Essentials Survey deadline – Jan. 30
- FY 17 IDEA excess cost worksheets due to IDEA grant coordinators – Jan. 31
- 2017 Illinois Arts Education Week – March 13-19
- Deadline to submit data in the Student Health Data Vision – June 30

## Special Education Services

### Final IDEA Part B Regulations Promote Equity for Students

On Monday, Dec. 12, the U.S. Department of Education released the final regulations under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The regulations require states by July 1, 2018, to develop and implement a single, standard methodology of determining significant disproportionality in the identification, placement, and discipline of students with disabilities based on race or ethnicity. The final federal IDEA regulations provide ISBE and our stakeholders with the opportunity to reexamine our methodology and ensure local education agencies (LEAs) have the resources and support they need to provide true equity for students with disabilities. The new regulations also allow LEAs to use “coordinated early intervening services” toward the prevention of mis-identification and/or over-identification by intervening with students both with and without disabilities and as early as the preschool level.

For more information on Illinois' current processes for monitoring disproportionality in special education, see the [Overview of Illinois' Process for Determining and Addressing Disproportionality in Special Education](#)

### [Identification and Significant Disproportionality in Identification, Placement, and Discipline.](#)

Additional resources on the final IDEA Part B regulations include:

- [Fact Sheet: Equity in IDEA](#)
- [Dear Colleague Letter: Preventing Racial Discrimination in Special Education](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Preventing Racial Discrimination in Special Education](#)

## Educator Effectiveness

### Teacher Evaluator Retraining

Evaluators who have taken the initial evaluator training (Growth Through Learning Modules or district developed) must complete retraining “once within the next renewal cycle” (105 ILCS 5/24A-3)). The chart below provides a guide for determining when retraining must be completed. Please note that retraining is connected to the *renewal cycle of the license* (PEL).

Retraining will be offered through the Administrator's Academies. Retraining through the Administrator Academy structure will allow for the inclusion of teachers who have successfully completed initial evaluator training, but do not hold an administrator

endorsement on their PEL. Two academies are required to meet the retraining requirement. One will address teacher practice, and the other will address student growth. The academies neither need to be taken in any particular order, nor do they have to be taken together.

Districts are reminded that they have the option of developing their own retraining program. Districts choosing to do so must notify the State Board of Education no later than July 1 immediately preceding the school year in which the process or program will be implemented. The notification shall at least include the type of training to be offered, names of the individuals presenting the training, and date upon which each school district-designated trainer completed the "train-the-trainers" program offered by, or on behalf of, the State Board of Education (Part 50 Administrative Rule section 50.400 (c) [www.isbe.net/Documents/50ARK.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/Documents/50ARK.pdf) .

**Sample Scenarios for First Retraining**

Renewal Cycle	Date of Retraining
As a teacher evaluator, if I took the initial training in 2012 and renewed my license by July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2013.	My retraining must be completed by June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2018.
As a teacher evaluator, if I renewed my license by July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2014	My retraining must be completed by June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2019
As a teacher evaluator, if I renewed my license by July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2015	My retraining must be completed by June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
As a teacher evaluator, if I renewed my license by July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	My retraining must be completed by June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
As a teacher evaluator, if I renew my license by July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017	My retraining must be completed by June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2022

**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/Pages/ESSA.aspx](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/ESSA.aspx).

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](mailto:essa@isbe.net) no later Dec. 27.**

**5Essentials**

**Survey Deadline Extended**

Due to increased demand, the 5Essentials Survey deadline has been extended to **Jan. 30, 2017**. To access the survey, please visit [www.isbe.net/Pages/5Essentials-Survey.aspx](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/5Essentials-Survey.aspx).

If you have any questions, please call (217) 782-3950 or email [5Essentials@isbe.net](mailto:5Essentials@isbe.net).

**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

[www.isbe.net/Documents/fy17-project-start-date-changes.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/Documents/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.

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### **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/Documents/43-48A-charter-rfp-17-intent-to-apply.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/Documents/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](mailto:cquezada@isbe.net) or (312) 814-2200.

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### **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/NoncertStaffSalStudy/UserGuide.pdf>
- Example for completing the survey: [www.isbe.net/Documents/ncss-instructions-12.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/Documents/ncss-instructions-12.pdf)
- Worksheet: [www.isbe.net/Documents/ncss-worksheet-07.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/Documents/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.

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### **In Brief**

#### **Educator Opportunities**

- **SE3D Education**, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) is seeking applicants for its 2017 Science Lab Innovators Program (SLIP). The SLIP Program is comprised of educators in K-12 public, private, charter, vocational training institutions, and colleges who are pioneering innovative Bioscience focused education

programs. Along with the NSF, SE3D wants to support those initiatives that ignite students' interest in science and have created the SLIP program. Any educational organization can participate if they have a clearly defined bioscience program or are planning to construct one. Please visit <http://se3dedu.blogspot.com/> to request program details. Application deadline for SLIP is Jan. 7.

### 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 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment: Transforming American Democracy." For more information, go to [www.ambar.org/lawday](http://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](http://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 ISBE career opportunities and find instructions for applying at [www.isbe-careers.net/](http://www.isbe-careers.net/).