

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

January 9, 2018



Hello,

Fair access to a quality education continues to be at the heart of the State Board’s mission. We have entered this new year with a renewed commitment to innovation in support of Illinois children, a commitment that includes exploring ways to move away from the constraints of seat time and maximize opportunities for every one of our students.

The Board and I remain steadfast in our pursuit of equity. It is a Board goal that all students in Illinois are supported by highly prepared and effective teachers. As you know, teacher and substitute teacher shortages are affecting all of us across the state. The Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (IARSS) shared the [results of its newest educator shortage survey](http://iarss.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/IARSS-Illinois-Educator-Shortage-2017-1.pdf) (http://iarss.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/IARSS-Illinois-Educator-Shortage-2017-1.pdf)

at the Dec. 13, 2017, State Board meeting. According to the

superintendents surveyed, teacher shortage concerns were more prominent

in rural districts in the central part of the state, and substitute teacher shortage concerns were most evident in southern part of the state. The most difficult positions to fill include bilingual teachers, Spanish teachers, special education teachers, nurses, and school psychologists. I appreciate the leadership from the ROEs around these teacher shortage crises, including IARSS President Mark Jontry. The Board committed to a year of inquiry regarding the teaching profession in the state. We will continue to do everything we can to build public awareness and to advance strategies to recruit, retain, and take better care of our teachers.

Fair access to a quality education for all students, across all demographics and geography, also includes high-speed internet access. Though broadband can be overlooked, it is critical to a quality education in the 21st century. Nearly 90,000 students in 106 school districts in Illinois do not have bandwidth sufficient to engage in digital learning, according to estimates provided by [EducationSuperHighway](https://www.educationsuperhighway.org/) (https://www.educationsuperhighway.org/). We have to equip educators with the connectivity and digital tools they need to support the strengths and challenges of all students in order to prepare them for college and career and fuel our growth as a state.

ISBE recently released a Notice of Funding Opportunity/Request for Proposals (NOFO/RFP) for pending state funds to expand internet connectivity in schools. If appropriated, the funds would reimburse school districts for the cost of upgrading their broadband infrastructure to fiber optic technology, opening up new opportunities to use free online resources, teach coding, and integrate technology across the curriculum. The Illinois Classroom Connectivity Initiative provides free services to school districts across the state to accelerate bandwidth upgrades through a partnership with EducationSuperHighway. The initiative has helped 756 Illinois school districts,

Quick Links

- [Illinois Bicentennial Celebration](#)
- [Education Technology](#)
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which educate more than 1.2 million students, meet the 100 kbps per student minimum connectivity goal. EducationSuperHighway connects districts to competitive service provider options and helps districts take advantage of the discounts offered through the Federal Communications Commission's E-rate program.

I encourage eligible districts to apply now for funds to expand their broadband capabilities and all districts to explore more affordable options for faster connectivity. School districts can access the NOFO/RFP on the [Broadband Information page on the ISBE website](#) (/Pages/Broadband-Information.aspx). Proposals must be received in the ISBE offices no later than 3 p.m. Feb. 9. The RFP Technical Assistance webinar under the "E-Rate State Matching Grant" dropdown can help districts as they prepare their submissions. Districts can also contact [EducationSuperHighway](#) (<https://www.educationsuperhighway.org/districts/>) for free support and consultation. The [Learning Technology Centers of Illinois](#) (<http://lrcillinois.org/tag/e-rate/>) provide districts with free workshops and support for E-rate applications.

Please stay in dialogue with us as the school year progresses. We continue to ask for you to share your stories with us – the ways you are innovating, maximizing opportunities, and supporting the whole child, whole school, and whole community. We want to know the unique strengths and opportunities of every district. And as part of our work to change the narrative around teaching, we want to highlight stories about incredible educators. With your partnership, we can elevate the great work you are doing and better support the continued progress of students and communities across the state.

Have a great week!

Tony



UPCOMING ISBE DATES AND DEADLINES

Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings, and deadlines. For more events and details, visit the [ISBE Meetings page](#) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ISBE-Meetings.aspx>) or call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663.

Jan. 12: Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Spring 2018

Jan. 12: [Deadline to submit FY 2019 Preschool For All and Preschool For All Expansion RFPs](#) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/RFPs.aspx>)

Jan. 15: ISBE offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Jan. 15: Public comment period on ISBE rules ends

Jan. 17: [Illinois State Board of Education meeting](#) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx>)

Jan. 19: Nonpublic Application and Recognition window closes

Jan. 31: FY 2018 IDEA Excess Cost worksheets due to the IDEA grant coordinators

Feb. 1: Teacher Salary Study window closes

Feb. 1: Non-Certified Staff Salary Study window closes

Feb. 2: [Deadline to submit FY 18 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant RFPs](#) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Equipment-Grants.aspx>)

Feb. 9: [Deadline to submit Early Childhood Prevention Initiative RFPs](#) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/RFPs.aspx>)

Feb. 9: [Deadline to submit FY 2019 E-rate State Matching Grant application](#) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Broadband-Information.aspx>)

Feb. 12: [Deadline to submit Illinois Green Ribbon Schools Program application](#) (<https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/now-open-illinois-green-ribbon-schools-application/>)

Feb. 14: [Illinois State Board of Education meeting](#) (<http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx>)

Feb. 15: [Deadline to submit 21st CCLC RFPs](#) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/21st-Century-Community-Learning-Centers.aspx>)

Feb. 15: [Deadline to submit Illinois Bicentennial Essay Contest Submissions](#) (<https://www.cognitofrms.com/IllinoisAssociationOfREALTORS1/HomelsWhereTheHeartIsBicentennialEssayContest>)

Feb. 16: Early Childhood RFP Call for Evaluators window closes

Feb. 16: [Deadline to submit application for 2018 Competency-Based High School Graduation Requirements Pilot program](#) (<https://www.isbe.net/competency>)

March 5-9: 2018 National School Breakfast Week

March 12-18: 2018 Illinois Arts Education Week

(<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Arts-Week.aspx>)

ILLINOIS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Illinois REALTORS® Bicentennial Essay Contest

The Illinois REALTORS® Bicentennial Task Force is launching its “Home is Where the Heart Is” essay contest. Twenty-three high school students across Illinois have a chance to win a monetary scholarship and be a part of the historic 200th birthday of the State of Illinois.

Students are asked to submit a minimum of 500 words (maximum 700 words) on what this theme means to them. All essays will be judged based on adherence to this theme, originality, creativity, grammar, punctuation, and spelling. The contest is open to Illinois high school students in grades 9 through 12 attending public, private, or home schools.

The contest submission deadline is **Feb. 15**. In addition to the monetary award, scholarship winners will also receive statewide recognition from Illinois REALTORS® and the State of Illinois Bicentennial Commission. Download the [Illinois Bicentennial Essay Contest Submission form](https://www.cognitoforms.com/IllinoisAssociationOfREALTORS1/HomelsWhereTheHeartIsBicentennialEssayContest) (<https://www.cognitoforms.com/IllinoisAssociationOfREALTORS1/HomelsWhereTheHeartIsBicentennialEssayContest>) for complete requirements and eligibility.


EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY

Upcoming Assistive Technology Conference

ISBE's Learning Technology Center in Rockford will be hosting a one-day teaching and learning conference on **Feb. 8**. The conference will focus on technology integration strategies, tools, and resources related to assistive technology and special education. More information is available at the Learning Technology Centers' [Assistive Technology Conference page](http://lrcillinois.org/assistentech/) (<http://lrcillinois.org/assistentech/>).

CULTURE & CLIMATE

Free Birth Records for People Experiencing Homelessness

A new state law, [Public Act 100-0506](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/100/PDF/100-0506.pdf)  (<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/100/PDF/100-0506.pdf>), requiring that free birth certificates be provided for people experiencing homelessness took effect January 1, 2018. “Homeless person” means an individual who meets the McKinney-Vento definition of “homeless” (42 U.S.C. 11302) or an individual residing in any of the following living situations: individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing; economic hardship or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; children and [youths](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=42-USC-115168979-996844513&term_occur=73&term_src=title:42:chapter:119:subchapter:VI:part:B:section:11434a) (https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=42-USC-115168979-996844513&term_occur=73&term_src=title:42:chapter:119:subchapter:VI:part:B:section:11434a) who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; children and [youths](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=42-USC-115168979-996844513&term_occur=74&term_src=title:42:chapter:119:subchapter:VI:part:B:section:11434a) (https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=42-USC-115168979-996844513&term_occur=74&term_src=title:42:chapter:119:subchapter:VI:part:B:section:11434a) who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train [stations](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=42-USC-1897135820-) (https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/uscode.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=42-USC-1897135820-

717284077&term_occur=17&term_src=title:42:chapter:119:subchapter:VI:part:B:section:11434a) or similar settings; and migratory children who meet the previous living situations. Children and youths who have been displaced from their homes because of a natural disaster would also meet the definition.

The new law requires that a service provider sign a statement verifying the applicant's homeless status. Public school homeless liaisons or school social workers are among the service providers who may sign a statement. Individuals who are homeless must not be charged for this verification. The McKinney-Vento Act requires schools to enroll students experiencing homelessness immediately, even if the student is unable to provide documents that are typically required for enrollment (such as previous academic records, records of immunizations and other required health records, proof of residency, proof of guardianship, birth certificates, or other documentation); has missed application or enrollment deadlines during a period of homelessness; or has outstanding fees. (Section 722(g)(3)(C)(i); see also 722(g)(1)(H))

If you have questions or concerns, please contact State Homeless Coordinator Vicki Hodges at vhodges@isbe.net (mailto:vhodges@isbe.net).

ILLINOIS GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS

Illinois Green Ribbon Schools Application Now Available

The Illinois Green Ribbon Schools Program recognizes schools that have active programs, actions, and dedication to promote and educate about sustainability. Illinois Green Alliance, working in partnership with the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Board of Higher Education, will be accepting applications from schools across Illinois. This is a great opportunity to showcase your school's efforts to be green and highlight the achievements of staff, students, and families to your entire community.

Applications are due by the close of business on **Feb. 12**. The top scoring schools will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools Program for consideration at the national level. Additional information about the timeline and the application for K-12 schools can be found on the [Illinois Green Alliance website](https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/now-open-illinois-green-ribbon-schools-application/) (https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/now-open-illinois-green-ribbon-schools-application/).

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS


Upcoming Webinar on 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant RFP

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) has been released and is on the [ISBE 21st CCLC website](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/21st-Century-Community-Learning-Centers.aspx) (/Pages/21st-Century-Community-Learning-Centers.aspx). Proposals are due to ISBE no later than **4 p.m. Feb. 15, 2018**. These are competitive grants with funding beginning in fiscal year 2019. Links to other resources for entities to use in preparing for the FY 2019 RFP can also be found on the 21st CCLC page.

A Q&A webinar will be hosted at **9 a.m. on Jan. 16** by ISBE's Division of College and Career Readiness regarding the FY 2019 21st Century Community Learning Centers RFP. [Registration is available here](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/386889942198112515) (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/386889942198112515).

For questions, please contact Shayla Grantham at (217) 524-4832 or 21stcclc@isbe.net (mailto:21stcclc@isbe.net).

Upcoming Event to Launch 2018 ILLINOIS READS Program

Everyone is invited to the launch of the 2018 ILLINOIS READS Program hosted at the Southern Illinois [ILLINOIS READS Book Festival](http://illinoisreads.org/events.html) (<http://illinoisreads.org/events.html>) on **March 10**. The festival will be held at DuQuoin High School in DuQuoin. Multiple Illinois authors will be present at the celebration. See the Illinois Reaching Council's [press release](http://illinoisreads.org/images/2018_ILLINOIS_READS_Press_Release.pdf)  (http://illinoisreads.org/images/2018_ILLINOIS_READS_Press_Release.pdf) to view the list of the books selected for this year. Visit [ILLINOIS READS](http://www.illinoisreads.org/) (<http://www.illinoisreads.org/>) for additional information.

Seeking Educator Feedback on College and Career Pathway Endorsement Competencies



Feedback is being collected through an **online survey** (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PWRActEndorsementCompetencies>) that will inform the state's development of technical and employability competencies for College and Career Pathway Endorsements under the PWR Act. The PWR Act established a voluntary system for school districts to award College and Career Pathways Endorsements to high school graduates. Endorsements signify that a student is ready to pursue postsecondary education or enter a career related to a selected career interest area and incentivize career exploration and development, particularly in high-demand sectors. Public and private committees representing employers from across the state have been working for the last six months to identify draft industry-wide technical and employability competencies in four key sectors: (1) Finance and Business Services, (2) Health Sciences, (3) Information Technology, and (4) Manufacturing and Engineering. The current draft of the competencies can be reviewed **here** (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tCAzixG4561MDaiUcQ6yiW4oli0kaXKI/view?usp=sharing>). The commenting period is open until **Jan. 15**.

Seeking Educator Feedback on College and Career Transitional Math Competencies

Feedback is being sought on draft competencies for College and Career Transitional Math as part of the effort to implement the PWR Act. A major barrier to postsecondary persistence and completion is remedial education, and many Illinois high school graduates require remedial courses in math. The PWR Act includes provisions for providing math instruction, referred to in the legislation as transitional math, to high school seniors to support their readiness for credit-bearing college math courses corresponding to the student's career pathway of interest. Committees including high school teachers, postsecondary faculty, and employers have developed draft competencies for transitional math instruction in three pathways: (1) STEM, (2) Quantitative Literacy and Statistics, and (3) Technical. Public comments and feedback are invited for the transitional math competencies and policies through an [online survey](http://www2.iccb.org/iltransitionalmath/documents/) (<http://www2.iccb.org/iltransitionalmath/documents/>). In particular, employer feedback is needed for the technical math competencies, as these competencies are intended to address the math knowledge and skills student should demonstrate for entry-level employment in technical fields. The commenting period is open until **Jan. 15**.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS






School Year 2016-17 Statewide Physical Fitness Assessment Data Released

Schools annually assessed the physical fitness level of students in grades 3-12 as of school year 2016-17, per [Public Act 98-0859](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/98/PDF/098-0859.pdf)  (<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/98/PDF/098-0859.pdf>) and subsequent Rules [Part 1, Section 1.425](ftp://www.ilga.gov/JCAR/AdminCode/023/023000010D04250R.html) (<ftp://www.ilga.gov/JCAR/AdminCode/023/023000010D04250R.html>). This requirement is an effort to assess whether or not schools are meeting [State Goal 20](/Documents/Goals-19-24-and-Perf-Descrip.pdf)  (/Documents/Goals-19-24-and-Perf-Descrip.pdf), where students achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness. Based upon continual self-assessment, fitness testing can help students identify their fitness levels and set goals for improvement. Gathering this data also enables parents and schools to better understand the health trends within their region and encourage enhancements in a school's physical education program.

The Statewide Physical Fitness Assessment for SY 2016-17 (by school, district, and county) along with context to help interpret these results and guidance on how to use fitness testing data to help your students, physical education teachers, school and community maximize the benefits of physical fitness is now available on the [Enhanced Physical Education page](#) (/EnhancedPhysicalEducation) under Quick Links. For more information on physical fitness assessments, please visit our [Q&A](#) (/EnhancedPhysicalEducation) under Quick Links. If you have questions, please contact ISBE's Shawn Backs at sbacks@isbe.net (mailto:sbacks@isbe.net).

Registration Underway for Pump Up P.E. Trainings


Pump Up P.E.: Promote Health, Learning & Lifelong Fitness, hosted by the Illinois Public Health Institute (IPHI), is a day-long training for physical education teachers on ways to increase physical activity time/intensity levels in classes, implement the revised Illinois Learning Standards on physical development and health, and administer the required state fitness tests. Learn more about the program on the [IPHI website](http://iphionline.org/pump_up_pe/) (http://iphionline.org/pump_up_pe/). Upcoming full-day Pump Up P.E. trainings include:

- **When:** 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6
- **Location:** Highland Church of Christ, 500 W. Highland, **Robinson**, IL 62454. Accessible to Clay, Crawford, Jasper, Lawrence and Richland counties.
- **Details:** The cost is free (grant funded), and six CPDUs are available. [Download the promotional flyer](http://iphionline.org/pdf/Pump_Up_PE_Flyer_ROE_12_2_6_17.pdf)  (http://iphionline.org/pdf/Pump_Up_PE_Flyer_ROE_12_2_6_17.pdf) and [register online](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScB1s8cd50kM2-amraoCADJWtCgGx2g96717MxwLUQH7z707Q/viewform) (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScB1s8cd50kM2-amraoCADJWtCgGx2g96717MxwLUQH7z707Q/viewform).
- **When:** 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, **Feb. 7**
- **Location:** Rolland W. Lewis Community Building, 800 S 27th St, **Mt. Vernon**, IL 62864
- **Details:** The cost is free (grant funded), and six CPDUs are available. [Download the flyer](http://iphionline.org/pdf/Pump_Up_PE_Flyer_Mt_Vernon_2_7_18.pdf)  (http://iphionline.org/pdf/Pump_Up_PE_Flyer_Mt_Vernon_2_7_18.pdf) and [register online](http://iphionline.org/register_pump_2_7_18_mt_vernon/) (http://iphionline.org/register_pump_2_7_18_mt_vernon/).
- **When:** 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, **Feb. 14**
- **Location:** ROE 26, 130 S. Lafayette St. #200, **Macomb**, IL 61455
- **Details:** Cost is \$75, which includes lunch. Six CPDUs are available. [To register, email Brian Bates](http://iphionline.org/pdf/Pump_Up_PE_Flyer_Macomb_2_14_18.pdf) (mailto:bbates@roe33.net), ROE 26. [Download the flyer here.](http://iphionline.org/pdf/Pump_Up_PE_Flyer_Macomb_2_14_18.pdf)  (http://iphionline.org/pdf/Pump_Up_PE_Flyer_Macomb_2_14_18.pdf)
- **When:** 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, **March 2**
- **Location:** West Aurora High School, 1201 W. New York St., **Aurora**, IL 60506
- **Details:** Free for Kane County teachers, \$75 for non-Kane County teachers; 5.5 CPDUs. [To register, email Katie Algrim,](http://iphionline.org/pdf/Pump_Up_PE_Flyer_Kane_ROE_3_2_18.pdf) (mailto:kalgrim@kaneroe.org) Kane County ROE. [Download the flyer here](http://iphionline.org/pdf/Pump_Up_PE_Flyer_Kane_ROE_3_2_18.pdf)  (http://iphionline.org/pdf/Pump_Up_PE_Flyer_Kane_ROE_3_2_18.pdf).
- **When:** 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday, **March 8**
- **Location:** Specific location to be determined. General location: **Champaign-Urbana**
- **Details:** The cost is free (grant funded), and six CPDUs are available. [Download the promotional flyer](http://iphionline.org/pdf/Pump_Up_PE_Flyer_Champ_Urb_3_8_18.pdf)  (http://iphionline.org/pdf/Pump_Up_PE_Flyer_Champ_Urb_3_8_18.pdf) and [register online](http://iphionline.org/register_pump_March_8_Champ_Urb/) (http://iphionline.org/register_pump_March_8_Champ_Urb/).

Know the Summer Meals Requirements for Districts

Public Act 096-0734 (amends Public Act 095-0155) amends Section 20 of the Childhood Hunger Relief Act (105 ILCS 126/20). This amendment requires a school district to implement a summer breakfast and/or lunch program for the duration of the summer school program in all schools where 50 percent or more of the student population is eligible for free or reduced-price meals AND that have a summer school program.

This amendment applies to all schools that meet the above criteria, including those schools not currently participating in any federal Child Nutrition Program. There is an opt-out clause in the legislation, but it must be completed by Jan. 15.

The [legislation](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/96/096-0734.htm) (<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/96/096-0734.htm>) along with [Question and Answers](#)  (/Documents/sfsp_pa96-0734_qa.pdf) are accessible [on the ISBE Website](#) (/Pages/Seamless-Summer-Option-Regulations-Policies.aspx). For more information about Summer Meals, visit ISBE's [Summer Food Service Program](#) (/Pages/Summer-Food-Service-Program.aspx) and [Seamless Summer Option](#) (/Pages/Seamless-Summer-Option.aspx) webpages.

Staff from our Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division is available at (800) 545-7892 or (217) 782-2491 for technical assistance with reimbursement or program operations. Please ask to speak with someone on our Summer Meals team.

Important Dates to Remember

Jan. 15: Deadline to submit written Opt-Out Request to your regional superintendent of schools.

Feb. 15: Deadline to develop and keep on file the district plan to conduct a summer lunch and/or breakfast program for each school where at least 50 percent of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals AND that have a summer school program.

Sign up for the Summer Food Service Program training if participating in the SFSP. For more information on SFSP, visit our [Summer Food Service Program page](#) (/Pages/Summer-Food-Service-Program.aspx).


Prior to March 1: Regional superintendent of schools must convene a public hearing to hear testimony from the school district and interested community members.

March 1: Deadline for regional superintendent to:

- Inform the school district, in writing, of his or her decision, along with the reasons why the exemption was granted or denied.
- Provide a listing to the Nutrition Programs Division of all districts that applied to opt-out, along with the affected schools, whether the exemption was granted or denied, and the reasons for the action.

National School Breakfast Week is Set for March 5-9

National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) is set for March 5-9, and this year's theme is "I Heart School Breakfast." Here are several resources to help you step up to the challenge and plan something special.

- The [School Nutrition Association](https://schoolnutrition.org/Meetings/Events/NSBW/2018/getstarted/) (<https://schoolnutrition.org/Meetings/Events/NSBW/2018/getstarted/>) has a wide variety of resources, including the [NSBW 2018 Toolkit](http://schoolnutrition.org/Meetings/Events/NSBW/2018/ToolsResources/) (<http://schoolnutrition.org/Meetings/Events/NSBW/2018/ToolsResources/>). The toolkit highlights ways to promote your program (use #NSBW18 for social media), a photo contest, an origami fruit project, activity sheets, a sample press release, and more.
- Check out the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Team Nutrition for great [School Breakfast Program materials](#) (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/sbp-materials>) to celebrate the special week. The space-themed "Launch Your Day With Breakfast"  (https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/TNevents_launch.pdf) is one thing to consider from the [Popular Events Idea Booklet](#) (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/team-nutrition-popular-events-idea-booklet>).
- The Food Research & Action Center will host the "[Breakfast Matters Webinar: Let's Celebrate School Breakfast](#)" (http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5118/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=87147) at 2 p.m. on Jan. 11. The webinar will focus on ideas on how to celebrate and advocate for school breakfast for NSBW and year-round.

The Illinois State Board of Education administers the [School Breakfast Program](#) (/Pages/School-Breakfast-Program.aspx) and the [National School Lunch Program](#) (/Pages/National-School-Lunch-Program.aspx), which are funded by the USDA.

Deadline Reminder: NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants RFPs Due Feb. 2

More than \$1.365 million will be awarded to school food authorities (SFAs) in FY 2018 for the replacement, renovation, or purchase of kitchen equipment that will allow SFAs to serve healthier meals that meet the updated meal patterns, with emphasis on more fruits and vegetables in school meals, improve food safety, and expand access.

ISBE is required to competitively award these equipment assistance grants to eligible SFAs participating in the National School Lunch Program. Higher priority must be given to high-need schools in which 50 percent or more of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

The FY 2018 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant RFP is available on the [Equipment Assistant Grants page](#) (/Pages/Equipment-Grants.aspx). The deadline to apply is **Feb. 2**.

RULES & WAIVERS

Invitation to Comment on Rules

Four sets 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 under [Proposed Rules and Amendments](#) (/Pages/Rules.aspx). Please submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net (mailto:rules@isbe.net). The public comment period ends **Feb. 12**. The rulemakings are Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision), Part 25 (Educator Licensure), Part 33 (Programs for the Preparation of Superintendents in Illinois), and Part 525 (Driver Education).

EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

Upcoming Illinois New Teacher Collaborative Winter Summit

The Illinois New Teacher Collaborative is hosting a winter leadership summit, “Stoking the Flames of Passionate Teaching,” on Jan. 26 for leaders of new, developing, or revisioning induction and mentoring programs. The summit will take place at the iHotel in Champaign. This is a working conference with a full day of breakout sessions, panel discussions, facilitated roundtables, and networking. Joe Fatheree of the Illinois Teacher Leader Network will be the keynote.

Registration is now open. For more information, visit the Illinois New Teacher Collaborative's [Induction and Mentoring Conference page](#) (<https://intc.education.illinois.edu/conference>).

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Prevention Initiative Request for Proposals Released

The RFP for Prevention Initiative has been released and is on the [ISBE Early Childhood website](#) (/Pages/RFPs.aspx). Proposals are due to ISBE no later than **4 p.m. Feb. 9**. These are open competitive grants with funding beginning in FY 2019. Links to data, webinars, and other resources to assist communities, providers, and others in preparing for the FY 2019 re-compete can also be found on the Early Childhood page. For questions, please contact the Division of Early Childhood Education at (217) 524-4835.

Call for Evaluators - Early Childhood Request for Proposals

Evaluators are being called for the following Early Childhood Request for Proposals: Prevention Initiative (PI) Birth to Age 3, Preschool for All (PFA) Ages 3-5, Preschool for All Expansion Model (PFAE) State.

Please complete [this survey](https://isbe-my.sharepoint.com/personal/mpolly_isbe_net/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?guestaccesstoken=Nako9VudKpAKDNzKdQ%2bjc4FKyODrmf9y3h4n1rvmSpQ%3d&docid=1_13713273979bd48e094b00abda80e3450&wdFormId=%7b7B7F84F6-1C27-4FAA-B6BC-D93F12B5EDF7%7d&action=formsubmit) (https://isbe-my.sharepoint.com/personal/mpolly_isbe_net/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?guestaccesstoken=Nako9VudKpAKDNzKdQ%2bjc4FKyODrmf9y3h4n1rvmSpQ%3d&docid=1_13713273979bd48e094b00abda80e3450&wdFormId=%7b7B7F84F6-1C27-4FAA-B6BC-D93F12B5EDF7%7d&action=formsubmit) to apply. You are volunteering time and expertise to complete the evaluation of approximately 10 to 20 proposals. Questions may be forwarded to the Early Childhood Division at earlychi@isbe.net ([mailto:earlychi@isbe.net%E2%80%8B](mailto:earlychi@isbe.net)).

Preschool for All and Preschool for All Expansion Request for Proposals Released

The RFPs for Preschool for All and Preschool for All Expansion have been released and are on the [ISBE Early Childhood website](#) ([/Pages/RFPs.aspx](#)). Proposals are due to ISBE no later than **4 p.m. Jan. 12**. These are open competitive grants with funding beginning in FY 2019. Links to data, webinars, and other resources to assist communities, providers, and others in preparing for the FY 2019 re-compete can also be found on the Early Childhood page. For questions, please contact the Division of Early Childhood Education at (217) 524-4835.

WELLNESS PROGRAMS

CDC Research Grants for Preventing Violence and Violence-Related Injury Now Available

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released [RFA-CE-18-001](#), *Research Grants for Preventing Violence and Violence-Related Injury* (<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=297345>). The CDC intends to commit up to \$1.05 million in FY 2018 to support up to three awards. The agency is soliciting investigator-initiated research that will help expand and advance knowledge about what works to prevent violence by rigorously evaluating primary prevention strategies in any of three areas. The Letter of Intent is due Feb. 9 and applications are due **March 26**.

NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

Nonpublic Application for Recognition Deadline Extended

The Nonpublic Application for Recognition and Calendar is open in IWAS for nonpublic schools needing to renew recognition and the application deadline has been extended. The system will be open until midnight on **Jan. 19**. Schools are advised to check their status after they click on the submit button. "Pending ROE Admin Approval" indicates the application is sent to the ROE/ISC office, which occurs before coming to ISBE. Schools seeing this message will want to check back in IWAS to see if the ROE/ISC has approved the applications (which are then forwarded on to ISBE) or the ROE/ISC has returned it to the school for edits. An application is ***not*** completely submitted until the status reads "Received by ISBE" or "Entered by ISBE Administrator." Any other status message indicates the school has not been successful yet in submitting its recognition renewal. For further information, contact Dr. Gary Greene at ggreene@isbe.net (<mailto:ggreene@isbe.net>) or (312) 814-3985.

GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY TRANSPARENCY ACT

First Quarter FY 2018 Grantee Periodic Performance Reports Past Due

The federal Uniform Guidance and GATA to a large extent are based on risk management and performance improvement. Both of these purposes are served by increased communication and collaboration between grantors and grantees. In recognition of this, both the Uniform Guidance and GATA require periodic performance reporting by grant recipients.

Another goal of GATA is to increase efficiencies by establishing uniform, standard non-redundant processes for the administration of grants. To this end, the Governor's Office of Management and Budget's GATA Unit has developed standard templates and protocols for the submission of periodic performance reports.

Periodic performance reports are required for all FY 2018 grants administered by the State of Illinois unless specifically exempted. Exempted ISBE programs include Evidence-Based Funding, Mandated Categoricals, and Drivers Education.

The reports include information on the accomplishment of deliverables described in the grant, the status of performance measures, and the alignment of accomplishments to date with spending to date.

ISBE is implementing the periodic performance reporting requirement through an IWAS-based system that incorporates the required information fields. The new Grant Periodic Reporting System became available on Thursday, October 26, 2017. Most grant recipients are required to report quarterly. Some will be required to report monthly due to findings of elevated programmatic risk.

Due to the delay in the implementation of the reporting system, the initial FY 2018 reporting period for all ISBE grantees will have a report date of October 31, 2017, and should include all activity from July 1, 2017, through October 31, 2017.

Following this initial reporting period, all reporting periods will be based on calendar quarters or months. Quarterly reports are due within 30 days after the end of the reporting period. Monthly reports are due within 20 days following the end of the month covered by the report.

NOTE: This performance reporting is **in addition to** the regular fiscal reporting done through the Electronic Expenditure Reporting system.

To learn more about the new reporting system and your obligations, please view the recorded webinars in the "What's New?" section on our [GATA page](/Pages/Grant-Accountability-and-Transparency-Act.aspx) (/Pages/Grant-Accountability-and-Transparency-Act.aspx). The [webinar](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/8522017045705743106) (https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/8522017045705743106) held on Nov. 1 covers the periodic reporting requirements and system, as well as the implementation of risk-based conditions and addresses participant questions.

Questions may be submitted to the ISBE GATA administration staff at GATA@ISBE.net (mailto:GATA@ISBE.net).

IN BRIEF

School Recognition

Congrats to the below schools for receiving [2017 HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms](https://www.fns.usda.gov/hussc/healthierus-school-challenge-smarter-lunchrooms) (https://www.fns.usda.gov/hussc/healthierus-school-challenge-smarter-lunchrooms) awards!

- **Arthur E. Canty Elementary School** in CPS 299 – Silver level award
- **Namaste Charter School** in CPS 299 – Gold Award of Distinction
- **Crestwood School** in Paris CUSD 4 – Bronze level award
- **Carolyn Wenz Elementary School, Mayo Middle School, and Memorial Elementary** all in Paris Union SD 95 – Bronze level award

Student Recognition

Congratulations to all Illinois high school students who have been named **2018-19 State Scholars** (<http://www.isac.org/students/before-college/college-career-planning/state-scholar/index.html>) by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission for their outstanding academic achievement!

District Recognition

Congratulations to **Roselle School District 12** for launching Discovery Zone (aka Genius Hour) this year as a districtwide initiative. District 12 staff and administration have put the learning in the hands of students by prioritizing personalized learning opportunities in the schedule during the daily "WIN or What I Need" time. For more information, please subscribe to the [Roselle D12 You Tube Channel Student Newscast](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MS-GU0Vjmts) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MS-GU0Vjmts>).

School Nutrition Ideas

Check out these new school recipes shared by the **Midwest Dairy Council**: [Asian Slaw](https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-asian-slaw) (<https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-asian-slaw>), [Baked Caribbean Lime Fish Sticks](https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-baked-caribbean-lime-fish-sticks) (<https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-baked-caribbean-lime-fish-sticks>), [Chipotle BBQ Three Bean Salad](https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-chipotle-bbq-three-bean-salad) (<https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-chipotle-bbq-three-bean-salad>), [Creamy Arroz Con Pollo](https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-creamy-arroz-con-pollo) (<https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-creamy-arroz-con-pollo>), [Creamy Herb Yogurt Dressing](https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-creamy-herb-yogurt-dressing) (<https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-creamy-herb-yogurt-dressing>), [Spiced Yogurt Muffins](https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-spiced-yogurt-muffins) (<https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-spiced-yogurt-muffins>), [Greek Yogurt Banana Muffins](https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-greek-yogurt-banana-muffins) (<https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-greek-yogurt-banana-muffins>), [Sriracha Chicken Salad Wrap](https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-sriracha-chicken-salad-wrap) (<https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-sriracha-chicken-salad-wrap>), [Ranch Veggie Pattie on a Bun](https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-ranch-veggie-pattie-on-a-bun) (<https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-ranch-veggie-pattie-on-a-bun>), and [Fruity Yogurt Popsicles](https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-fruity-yogurt-popsicles) (<https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-fruity-yogurt-popsicles>).

Recognition Opportunities

Northern Illinois University's **Marguerite F. Key Fellows Program** is designed to identify and reward preschool, elementary, and/or secondary principals who have implemented new and inventive strategies to postsecondary access and retention. Up to 10 Key Fellows will be chosen each year from school districts across Illinois to participate in a one-day leadership institution in June on the NIU DeKalb campus organized around a central college and career readiness theme. This institute gathers these visionary leaders to study and discuss their innovative approaches. To submit a nomination, visit NIU's [Marguerite F. Key Fellows Program page](http://cedu.niu.edu/lepf/key-fellows-program/index.shtml) (<http://cedu.niu.edu/lepf/key-fellows-program/index.shtml>). The deadline is Jan. 31.

ISBE Employment Opportunities

Watch for ISBE career opportunities and find instructions for applying at [Careers at ISBE](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx) (<http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx>).