MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

perintendent

Tony Smith, Ph.D

January 23, 2018

Hello,

The federal government shutdown concluded late Monday after three days, with Congress and the president agreeing to a spending plan to fund the government through February 8. ISBE staff confirmed that a federal government shutdown does not limit our ability to continue to draw federal funds to provide reimbursements to grantees, as most federal education funding is advance funded to states. We will continue to closely monitor the situation. The temporary spending bill passed Monday maintained level funding for education programs and extended the Children's Health Insurance Program for six years. The State Board and I are urging Congress and the president to come to a long-term resolution that protects critical funding for students, families, and schools.

This morning, I spoke on WBEZ's The Morning Shift (https://www.wbez.org/shows/morning-shift/isbe-head-says-il-schools-need-

double-the-money/ecc821de-71ee-44c8-974f-0159d2828305) about ISBE's fiscal year 2019 budget recommendation. Evidence-Based Funding provides a path toward equity and adequacy for all students; as we all know, the primary funding source for public education in Illinois remains local property taxes. As we also know, a long history of political decisions have concentrated resources and opportunity in some communities and stripped resources and opportunities from others, resulting in deeply inequitable funding for schools. At this point, the state has not fulfilled its constitutional mandate to assume the "primary responsibility for financing the system of public education." Without that commitment from the state, the wide variance in what school districts can commit locally will persist, with an inequitable result for students. Federal funds support our highest-needs children and families and on average make up 10 percent of funds provided to districts. Therefore, we believe "primary responsibility" constitutes ensuring that every district can meet at least 90 percent of its individual Adequacy Target through a combination of state and local funding support. Creating the conditions for each and every child to thrive requires naming what it really takes to provide an adequate education for all our children. View the State Board's recommended Fiscal Year 2019 Investment to Support Educational Excellence here (/Documents/FY19_Brd_Req.pdf).

Quick Links

Those Who Excel
Funding & Disbursements
College & Career
Readiness
Early Childhood
Education
Educator Effectiveness
Culture & Climate
School Business Services
Nutrition Programs
Grant Accountability
Transparency Act
In Brief

Our vision for equity includes expanding access to high-quality learning opportunities to better prepare students for college and career. At our budget hearings, we heard how important Advanced Placement (AP) is across the state and therefore we requested \$3 million to increase AP opportunities and provide AP exam fee reimbursement for low-income students. Our budget request reflects our commitment to ensuring students have access to diverse pathways and advanced opportunities, no matter their family income or where they live. We also have to change the mindset of students, their families, and the adults in our schools about who can and should be in AP or International Baccalaureate courses. We must believe deeply in all of our children and support all of our students, particularly our low-

income students and students of color, in realizing all that is possible for them. Across Illinois, 52 high schools are partnering with Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS) to eliminate their AP enrollment gaps. The EOS Network Rally last week provided a space for districts involved in this work to connect and share best practices. I want to celebrate the districts leading our growing work to expand access across the state and to thank EOS for supporting Illinois students.

At the State Board meeting (/Documents_Board_Meetings/20180117-Packet.pdf) last week, stakeholder groups shared their recommendations for how the state should measure school quality and student success in our new balanced accountability system. I want to express my appreciation for the collaborative work that has helped us reach this point. We are now requesting feedback on the recommendations stakeholders submitted for the Preschool to Second Grade (/Documents/17-3249_P-

2_Indicator_Working_Group_Report.pdf), Elementary/Middle Grade (/Documents/17-3249_3-8_Indicator_Working_Group_Report.pdf), and College and Career Readiness (/Documents/CCRI_Report.pdf) indicators. Please send feedback to ESSA@isbe.net (mailto:ESSA@isbe.net) by February 16, 2018. We want this work to continue to be a partnership and look forward to learning more as we implement together.

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. 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 2018 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant RFPs

(https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Equipment-Grants.aspx)

Feb. 6: Deadline for districts to submit comments on Financial Profile Report

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: Public comment period on ISBE rules ends (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Rules.aspx)

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

Feb. 12: ISBE offices closed for Lincoln's Birthday

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.cognitoforms.com/IllinoisAssociationOfREALT ORS1/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)

Feb. 19: ISBE offices closed for Presidents' Day March 5-9: 2018 National School Breakfast Week March 12-18: 2018 Illinois Arts Education Week (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Arts-Week.aspx)

2018-19 Those Who Excel Nomination Packets Now Available

The Illinois State Board of Education annually sponsors Those Who Excel to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to our state's public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools. Excellence, Meritorious Service, and Special Recognition awards are presented in seven categories: classroom teacher; school administrator/principal; student support personnel (licensed); educational service personnel (unlicensed); school board member/community volunteer; team; and early career educator. Nomination materials are evaluated by a selection committee composed of individuals who represent a variety of educational organizations. Awards of Excellence winners in the classroom teacher category are finalists for the Illinois Teacher of the Year. Local school district leaders and members of school communities are asked to nominate candidates.

The application for the 2018-2019 Those Who Excel program (/Documents/03-10-those-who-excel.pdf) is now available. This year, applications may be completed electronically and emailed to amuraro@isbe.net (mailto:amuraro@isbe.net) or be printed and mailed to ISBE, Office of Communications, 100 N. First Street, Springfield, 62777-0001. Mailed applications must be postmarked by Monday, June 4. Emailed applications must be received by close of business June 4 . The Those Who Excel banquet will be held Saturday, October 20, at the Marriott Bloomington-Normal Conference Center and Hotel.

If you would prefer a paper copy of the application or have questions, please call the Office of Communications at (217) 782-4648.

2018 Illinois Teacher of the Year Available for Speaking Engagements



Lindsey Jensen, an English teacher at Dwight Township High School in Dwight Public School District 230, is the 2018 Illinois Teacher of the Year. She is ready to share her enthusiasm for teaching with you!

Lindsey inspires colleagues and students alike by her commitment to teaching, leading, and working to help others in the community. Her passion for learning is evident in her daily work both inside and outside of the classroom. Lindsey and a colleague are currently redesigning Dwight Township's 9-12 English curriculum, while she is

simultaneously finishing her doctoral degree.

Lindsey builds solid relationships with her students by letting them know she cares about their emotional and social well-being, as well as their academic success. Her students relate to her and constantly look to her for support. Lindsey is involved in extracurricular activities like advising the Drama Club, coaching cheerleading, directing the spring musical, and coordinating the polar plunge team. Her passion for teaching and learning is contagious!

If you would like Lindsey to share her insights, strategies, and ideas with your staff, please visit her website (https://lindseyljensen.com/contact).

FUNDING & DISBURSEMENTS

Final 2016-17 School Year Mandated Categorical Prorations Now Calculated

Final prorations and payments have been calculated for all 2016-17 school year categorical programs. A narrative of each program and the statutory formula for computing payments can be found here (/Documents/mcat-narrative.pdf). If you have questions regarding this information, contact ISBE's Division of Funding and Disbursements at (217) 782-5256.

2016-17 school year programs reimbursed in fiscal year 2018:

- Special Education Private Facility 90 percent
- Special Education Transportation 91 percent

• Regular/Vocational Transportation – 84 percent

2016-17 school year programs reimbursed in fiscal year 2017:

- Special Education Orphanage 100 percent
- Regular Orphanage 100 percent
- Illinois Free Lunch/Breakfast 22 percent

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

FY 2018 Arts and Foreign Language Planning Assistance Grant Available

The Illinois Arts Council Agency and the Illinois State Board of Education are pleased to announce funding is available for school districts and other eligible applicants in fiscal year 2018 for the Arts and Foreign Language Planning Assistance Grant.

The Illinois Arts Council Agency has released a Request for Proposals (RFP). The purpose of this RFP is to solicit proposals from eligible applicants that seek resources to develop district-based plans for initiating, strengthening, or expanding instruction in the arts or foreign languages. Full guidelines and materials can be found on the Illinois Arts Council Agency website (http://www.arts.illinois.gov/AFL). Proposals are due Thursday, March 8.

An online, interactive informational forum about the Arts and Foreign Language Planning Assistance Grant, designed to provide technical assistance on the RFP and answer questions about the process, is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Feb. 6. Registration information is posted on the Illinois Arts Council Agency website (http://www.arts.illinois.gov/AFL).

For more information, contact Jerome Grand at jerome.grand@illinois.gov (mailto:jerome.grand@illinois.gov) or (312) 814-6766 or visit the Illinois Arts Council Agency website (http://www.arts.illinois.gov/AFL).

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

KIDS Winter 2017-18 Rating Window Now Open

The KIDS Winter 2017-18 Rating Window is now open in KIDStech. Please note this rating period is optional. Kindergarten teachers can now gain access to the Winter Rating Period if your district has made the decision to enter KIDS ratings for the 105th day of district attendance. Michelle Escapa, KIDS coordinator, will be sending out district-specific emails. If your district needs to adjust the data entry window for the 105th day of enrollment, please let Michelle know and she can make those adjustments. As a reminder, KIDStech usernames and passwords remain the same each year.

If you have further questions, please contact Michelle Escapa at mescapa@roe51.org (mailto:mescapa@roe51.org) or (217) 801-6566 or the ISBE Early Childhood Division at (217) 524-4835 or kids@isbe.net (mailto:kids@isbe.net).

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) 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).

EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

Check Out PERA Coach Virtual Newsletters

ISBE and the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council publishes Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) Coach Virtual Newsletters in an effort to provide schools and districts with continual guidance and information on PERA, including resources and best practices. Issues date back to October 2015 and are published as new information becomes available. View all issues of the PERA Coach Virtual Newsletter on ISBE's Educator Evaluations webpage (/Pages/Educator-Evaluations.aspx).

CULTURE & CLIMATE

Free Birth Records for People Experiencing Homelessness — IDPH Form Now Available

A new state law, Public Act 100-0506 (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) 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) 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-

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))

The IDPH form (/Documents/Homeless_Birth_Certificate_Form.pdf) is now available on the Homeless Education website (/Pages/Homeless.aspx). The provider (school, McKinney-Vento liaison, homeless shelter, homeless service provider) is required to print the form on organizational/school district letterhead. The school district will only be required to add the school district name, not the

agency tax ID.

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

SCHOOL BUSINESS SERVICES

School District Annual Financial Report Review Process

All district superintendents should have received an email broadcast asking them to review their preliminary Financial Profile Report and verify the Operating Expense per Pupil (OEPP)/Per Capita Tuition Charge (PCTC) and 9-month ADA.

District administrators may submit comments regarding their district's finances that will be published along with their Financial Profile Report (500 characters max). The comments must be submitted no later than Feb. 6.

The email included links to the memorandum, instructions, and definitions to assist with the review process. These documents are also available in IWAS (https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas/asp/login.asp?js=true) and on the School District Financial Profile Score & OEPP/PCTC Verification Information webpage. (/Pages/Financial-Profile-Score.aspx)

The email broadcast and Superintendent's Weekly Message will be the only notices sent to the district. If you have not received the email, please contact ISBE at (217) 785-8779. If you have given another person authority to review these reports, please forward the email to them.

The financial profile designation will be approved and publicly released by ISBE, so it is crucial that districts review their financial profile data and score. Any district that wishes to include comments that support the Financial Profile Report may do so directly in IWAS (https://sec1.isbe.net/iwas/asp/login.asp?js=true) beneath the report. Comments are optional, but they are encouraged. This is an opportunity for districts to explain significant financial circumstances.

Please note that once the Feb. 15 deadline passes, changes to the 2017 Annual Financial Report data are not permitted.

The financial profile scores will be adjusted to reflect any mandated categorical aid payments due to school districts that were not paid by June 30, 2016, and not included in their FY 2017 Annual Financial Report.

If you have questions regarding the school profile score, please contact Christine Kolaz at (217) 785-8779 or ckolaz@isbe.net (mailto:ckolaz@isbe.net). If you believe your OEPP/PCTC report is incorrect, please contact Debbie Hemberger at (217) 785-8779 or dhemberg@isbe.net (mailto:dhemberg@isbe.net).

NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Save the Dates for the SNP Back to School Conference

Save the dates! The annual School Nutrition Programs Back to School Conference is set for Monday, Aug. 6, and Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2018, at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. The free two-day conference will include sessions on such topics as meal planning, USDA Foods, procurement and resource management, and more.

Nearly 600 school nutrition professionals from across the state attended the conference last August. More than 30 trainings sessions were offered at the two-day conference, including "New Staff Orientation," "Accommodating Children with Disabilities in the School Meal Programs," and "Local Wellness Policies."

Watch for registration and more information on the SNP Back to School Conference webpage (/Pages/SNPB2S.aspx).

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 the GATA webpage (/Pages/Grant-Accountability-and-Transparency-Act.aspx). The webinar

(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

Upcoming Events

Advance Illinois' fifth annual Illinois 60 by 25 Conference (http://60by25.org/2018conference/) will be held on Feb. 6-7 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington. The focus of the conference is on collective impact strategies to advance educational equity and increase degree attainment in Illinois communities. Guest speakers include State Superintendent of Schools Tony Smith and other school officials, business leaders, and national partners. Register for the conference here (https://www.eventbrite.com/e/illinois-60-by-25-network-annual-conference-feb-6-7-2018-tickets-39520026463).

Student Opportunities

The Federal Bar Association and Federal Judges' Association is sponsoring a nationwide civics essay/video contest (http://www.fedbar.org/Outreach/Inaugural-Civics-Essay-Contest_1.aspx) for high school students. This year's topic is on the "14th Amendment – What Does Equal Protection Mean for Students?" The deadline for submissions is 11:59 p.m. on Feb. 28.

Administrator Recognition

Congratulations to Dr. David Schuler, superintendent of High School District 214 in Arlington Heights, for being named one of four finalists for the National Superintendent of the Year (https://www.d214.org/district-214-leader-named-finalist-for-national-superintendent-of-the-year/) by the American Association of School Administrators!

District Recognition

Congratulations to West Aurora SD 129 for offering Illinois' first FederallyRegistered Apprentice Program (https://www.sd129.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=13&ModuleInstanceID=4899&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=8799&PageID=19&GroupByField=&GroupYear=0&GroupMonth=0&Tag) in a health field at the secondary education level!

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) 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 W enz Elementary School, Mayo Middle School , and Memorial Elementary all in Paris Union SD 95 Bronze level award

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).