

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

January 30, 2018



Hello,

Districts across the state are thinking critically about inclusion and equity to engage students with diverse needs and life experiences. I had the opportunity to visit Keeneyville Elementary School District 20 last week and was struck by the intentionality of inclusion in the district.

Keeneyville's multifaceted education program helps to keep all students in the district's wider education community. Structured teaching and multi-needs "DESTINY" classrooms aim to integrate students with varying needs into the regular education environment so they can connect with peers, receive support in accessing grade-level curriculum, and build life skills. Keeneyville also brings students from the Philip J. Rock Center into the district's programs and tailors its full-day special education preschool program to include supports for young learners. For example, the

patterns in the tiles in a preschool classroom create space for children with sensory needs to regulate their behaviors and self-soothe.

Thank you to Keeneyville for sharing with me your thoughtful work to build a safe and healthy learning environment for all students.

The site-based expenditure reporting requirement included within the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) can be powerful for districts and local communities. Beginning with 2018-19 school year data, all school districts and other designated reporting entities nationwide will report per-pupil expenditure data at the district level *and* at the school level, disaggregated by source of funds (federal vs. state/local). This reporting offers an unprecedented opportunity for inquiry into resource allocation, intra-district equity, and the relationship between student outcomes and financial investments.

Illinois began the process of creating reporting guidance for districts by convening an advisory group representing diverse districts and associations. The advisory group sought to maximize the usefulness of the new data while minimizing the initial burden on school districts and ensuring each district owns its own data and story. We are pleased to show first results of the advisory group's work: a core [guidance document](#) (/Documents/ISBE-Site-Based-Expenditure-Reporting-Guidance.pdf) detailing what school districts and other designated reporting entities must prepare in anticipation of reporting site-based expenditures on the Illinois Report Card released for the 2018-19 school year.

We invite superintendents and their teams to join an informational webinar at 1 p.m. **this Friday, Feb. 2**, with ISBE and superintendents/advisory group members Jon Bartelt, Lindsey Hall, and Mark Twomey. [Register for the webinar here](#) (<http://isbe.site/reporting>). We will record and post the webinar at on the [ESSA webpage](#) (<http://www.isbe.net/essa>) alongside other materials, including my [letter](#) (/Documents/Letter-Site-Based-Expenditure-Reporting-Guidance.pdf) introducing the guidance. See the ESSA item below for more information.

Quick Links

- [Every Student Succeeds Act](#)
- [Evidence-Based Funding](#)
- [Wellness Programs](#)
- [Culture & Climate](#)
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Last week, I spoke at the public event announcing the release of “Illinois Chronicles,” a historical timeline book looking at Illinois’ 200 years. The state will provide this incredible resource, the first of its kind produced in the United States, to every school in spring 2018 in honor of Illinois’ bicentennial. ISBE content specialists designed an accompanying educator pack to assist educators with incorporating bicentennial lessons and activities into their curriculum. I am proud of this innovative collaboration between ISBE, the Governor’s Office of the Illinois Bicentennial, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, and What On Earth Publishing. Find resources from ISBE and more information on the [Bicentennial webpage](#) (/bicentennial).

Students connect more deeply to their learning when they see themselves in the books they read and the history they learn. African American history is a rich part of Illinois history, and Black History Month provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the important contributions of African Americans that have shaped and continue to shape our world today. If you are looking for Black History Month resources, I encourage you start with the [Teachers’ Guides from the University of Illinois Extension](#) (<http://extension.illinois.edu/bhm/tg.html>). I applaud educators across our state for intentionally embedding diversity into their lesson plans throughout the year, not just in the month of February. [Teaching Tolerance](#) (<https://www.tolerance.org/>) and [Facing History and Ourselves](#) (<https://www.facinghistory.org/>) offer other valuable tools to support equitable and inclusive school environments.

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.

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

Newly Released Guidance and Upcoming Webinar on ESSA Site-Based Expenditure Reporting




ESSA requires all states to begin site-based expenditure reporting. All Local Education Agencies (LEAs) will report per-pupil expenditure data at the district level and at the school level, disaggregated by source of funds, beginning with 2018-19 school year data. Site-based expenditure reporting will be submitted to ISBE, which will post the data to the Illinois Report Card to meet ESSA reporting requirements.

ISBE, in partnership with Afton Partners and the Site-Level Financial Reporting Advisory Group, has developed a [guidance document](#)  (/Documents/ISBE-Site-Based-Expenditure-Reporting-Guidance.pdf) to provide LEAs and other reporting entities with **guidelines** for fulfilling the site-based expenditure reporting requirement.

ISBE is hosting an informational webinar on the guidance for the Site-Based Expenditure Reporting for superintendents and their teams. The webinar is at **1-2:30 p.m. on Feb. 2**. [Registration is now available](http://isbe.site/reporting) (<http://isbe.site/reporting>). This webinar will be the first in a series of trainings offered.

Additional information will continue to be added to [ISBE's ESSA webpage](/Pages/ESSA.aspx) (</Pages/ESSA.aspx>) as it becomes available. For questions, please contact Sara R. Shaw at the ISBE Division of Finance at (217) 782-0249 or sshaw@isbe.net (<mailto:sshaw@isbe.net>).

Seeking Feedback on School Quality/Student Success Indicators

Stakeholder groups shared their recommendations during the State Board meeting in January for how the state should measure school quality and student success in the new balanced accountability system. ISBE is requesting feedback on the recommendations provided for the [P-2](/Documents/17-3249_P-2_Indicator_Working_Group_Report.pdf)  (/Documents/17-3249_P-2_Indicator_Working_Group_Report.pdf), [Elementary-Middle Grade](/Documents/17-3249_3-8_Indicator_Working_Group_Report.pdf)  (/Documents/17-3249_3-8_Indicator_Working_Group_Report.pdf), and the [College and Career Readiness](/Documents/CCRI_Report.pdf)  (/Documents/CCRI_Report.pdf) indicators. Please submit feedback to ESSA@ISBE.net (<mailto:ESSA@ISBE.net>) no later than **Feb. 16**.

EVIDENCE-BASED FUNDING

Deadline to Announce Intent to Change from Half-Day to Full-Day Kindergarten is April 1

The new Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) formula creates an Adequacy Target for each district based on total average student enrollment and English Learner and low-income enrollment populations. Kindergarten students are assigned a value of 0.5 if they attend a half day and a value of 1.0 if they attend a full day. Per Public Act 100-0465, a school district may inform the State Board of Education of its intent to change from half-day to full-day kindergarten. Taking this action will convert kindergarten attendance to full day for purposes of calculating EBF in the following year. The deadline to report this information is **April 1**.

Any school district that wishes to make this change for the 2018-19 school year must provide ISBE with a board resolution expressing the intent to make the change for the next school year, as well as the minutes from the meeting when this was approved. School districts may submit these documents to ISBE via EBFhelp@isbe.net (<mailto:EBFhelp@isbe.net>). If you have questions, please call the State Funding and Forecasting Division at (217) 782-0249 or email your questions to EBFhelp@isbe.net (<mailto:EBFhelp@isbe.net>).

WELLNESS PROGRAMS

FY 2018 Healthy Communities Incentive Grant RFP Released

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for [Fiscal Year 2018 Healthy Communities - Non-school Districts](/Pages/Healthy-Community-Investment-Grants.aspx) (</Pages/Healthy-Community-Investment-Grants.aspx>) has been released. Proposals are due to ISBE no later than **3 p.m. Feb. 26**. For questions, please contact Kristy Jones at kjones@isbe.net (<mailto:kjones@isbe.net>).

CULTURE & CLIMATE

National School Counseling Week Feb. 5-9

National School Counseling Week is Feb. 5-9! This year's theme, "School Counselors: Helping Students Reach for the Stars," highlights the important role school counselors play in helping students achieve school success and prepare for their futures. Celebrate your school counselors with [ideas and resources from the American School Counselor Association](https://www.schoolcounselor.org/school-) (<https://www.schoolcounselor.org/school->

counselors-members/about-asca-%281%29/national-school-counseling-week). ISBE also recently released the [Developmental Counseling Model for Illinois Schools: Best Practices for School Counselors](#)

(https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UAvGfsBGF_JUSWCKaOiHq4SQTSSYv4QcmCYCcMT74w/edit) in partnership with the Illinois School Counselor Association. Find this document, more information about National School Counseling Week, and other resources for school counselors on our [School Counselors webpage](#) (/Pages/SchoolCounselors.aspx).

NUTRITION PROGRAMS

GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY TRANSPARENCY ACT

THOSE WHO EXCEL

FUNDING & DISBURSEMENTS

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

IN BRIEF

Upcoming Events

- Plan something special for **School Lunch Hero Day** ([May 4](#)) and **School Nutrition Employee Week** ([May 7-11](#)) (<https://schoolnutrition.org/SLHD/SamplePressReleaseProclamation/>)!
- 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 American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division is hosting the **2018 Law Day Art Contest** (https://www.americanbar.org/groups/young_lawyers/initiatives/law_day_art_contest.html) for high school students. Participants are asked to create an art piece exploring the theme "Separation of Powers: Framework for Freedom." The deadline to submit is March 31.
- 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 Paul Kelly of Elk Grove High School, who was named 2018 Illinois High School Principal of the Year by the Illinois Principals Association!
- 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/) (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 [Federally Registered Apprenticeship 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) (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!

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).