

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

February 21, 2018



Hello,

Today, Wednesday, Feb. 21, is the LAST DAY for your district to request changes to your enrollment data, which serves as the basis for fiscal year 2018 Evidence-Based Funding. We will not accept any requests for changes after 11:59 p.m. today. If we do not hear from your district before this deadline, we will proceed with the understanding that your district's enrollment numbers are verified and correct. After this final verification period, agency staff will finalize and voucher tier funding payments.

I enjoyed sharing a few updates following the State Board meeting last week, but I wanted to add a couple more highlights here. I participated in the [Illinois 60 by 25 Network](http://60by25.org/) (http://60by25.org/)'s Annual Conference, which focused on scaling for impact using an equity lens. Equity is the path to

ensuring that at least 60 percent of all adults in Illinois have a high-quality college or career credential by 2025. I believe in the network's

approach of collaboration across districts, higher education, businesses, and communities to improve our ability to prepare students for meaningful and rewarding work after graduation. We can expand social and economic opportunity across the state by keeping equity at the center of our work.

I am grateful for the commitment to equity demonstrated by the [Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education \(IAASE\)](https://www.iaase.org/) (https://www.iaase.org/). The Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) recognized IAASE as the national Exemplary CASE State Unit for the second year in a row. Only one state receives this honor each year. Please join me in congratulating IAASE members and leaders for this well-deserved recognition of their excellence and dedication!

I would also like to celebrate the [three educational leaders from Illinois](/Lists/News/NewsDisplay.aspx?ID=1198) (/Lists/News/NewsDisplay.aspx?ID=1198) honored by AASA, a professional organization for more than 13,000 educational leaders, at the organization's annual National Conference on Education last week. Dr. Blondean Davis has led Matteson School District 162 since 2002 with a deep focus on equity and rigor and received the [Women in School Leadership Superintendent Award](http://www.aasa.org/content.aspx?id=42123) (http://www.aasa.org/content.aspx?id=42123) for her talent and creativity. Former Des Plaines School District 62 Superintendent Dr. Jane Westerhold received one of five [Distinguished Service Awards](http://www.aasa.org/content.aspx?id=42124) (http://www.aasa.org/content.aspx?id=42124) in recognition of her many accomplishments over the course of her career of more than 40 years

To cap off a proud day for Illinois, AASA named Township High School District 214's Dr. David Schuler [the 2018 AASA National Superintendent of the Year](http://www.aasa.org/content.aspx?id=42120)[®] (http://www.aasa.org/content.aspx?id=42120). Dr. Schuler leads AASA's [Redefining Ready!](https://www.redefiningready.org/) (https://www.redefiningready.org/) program, an initiative to assess students' readiness for college, career, and life through research-based metrics. Dr. Schuler's Redefining Ready! work provided critical contributions to the formulation of Illinois' Every Student Succeeds Act

Quick Links

- [Every Student Succeeds Act](#)
- [Evidence-Based Funding](#)
- [Early Childhood Education](#)
- [Charter Schools](#)
- [Nutrition Programs](#)
- [Assessments & Accountability](#)
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- [Wellness Programs](#)
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State Plan. Dr. Schuler's push to make college more accessible and affordable led to the implementation of a comprehensive career pathways program in District 214, which has its central office in Arlington Heights. The district offers personalized learning experiences through early college credit, internships, and career credentials. (Read a feature on District 214's career pathways program [here](http://hechingerreport.org/opinion-heres-economic-engine-powers-communities-school/) (<http://hechingerreport.org/opinion-heres-economic-engine-powers-communities-school/>).) Thank you to these superintendents for their deep commitment to Illinois students and for exhibiting the remarkable leadership of educators in Illinois!

Career and Technical Education Month[®] (<https://www.acteonline.org/general.aspx?id=2722#.WoRe8K6nFhH>) in February provides us with a chance to highlight the work of students and teachers like those in District 214. Dr. Schuler's award underscores the significance of presenting students with many opportunities to discover their interests, unique strengths, and potential career pathways. Share your CTE stories by using #CTEMonth on social media or emailing Social_Media@isbe.net (mailto:Social_Media@isbe.net).

Deep engagement with educators continues to inform our ESSA implementation. In particular, Teach Plus' work to promote teacher leadership empowers teachers to be meaningful stakeholders in ESSA. I encourage you to look at Teach Plus's Title II Toolkit, [Making ESSA Work For You: How Title II can Lead to Better Professional Development in Your District](http://teachplus.org/sites/default/files/publication/pdf/title_ii_final_copy.pdf)  (http://teachplus.org/sites/default/files/publication/pdf/title_ii_final_copy.pdf), written by educator fellows, to learn more about how teachers can engage in building professional development. Join the upcoming "Making ESSA Work For You" webinar (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/webinar-making-essa-work-for-you-tickets-43347175569>) at 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 8, for more information.

It is our collective responsibility to keep all students safe in our schools. In light of last week's horrific violence in Parkland, FL, I want to emphasize that the voices of the victims must inform our work to ensure the physical safety and social and emotional well-being of all members of our school communities.

Take care,

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) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ISBE-Meetings.aspx>) or call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663.

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

Webinar on New Federal Student-Centered Funding Pilot Application Feb. 22

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is hosting a [webinar](https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/scfp/studentcentered.html) (https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/scfp/studentcentered.html) **11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Feb. 22** to discuss the application for the federal Student-Centered Funding Pilot. ED recently released the much-anticipated application for the federal Student-Centered Funding Pilot, with the first round of applications due **March 12**. Student-Centered Funding is also known as Weighted Student Funding (WSF) or Student-Based Allocations. The pilot, an application program authorized by ESSA, allows ED to grant additional Title I flexibilities to LEAs using (or intending to use) weighted student formulas to distribute LEA dollars. [Learn more about the pilot here](https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/scfp/studentcentered.html) (https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/scfp/studentcentered.html).

The intended webinar audience is LEAs, though other interested parties are also welcome. The webinar will clarify the opportunity interested LEAs have to apply for flexibility to implement a student-centered funding system. The webinar will be recorded and posted on the [Student-Centered Funding Pilot webpage](https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/scfp/studentcentered.html) (https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/scfp/studentcentered.html).

EVIDENCE-BASED FUNDING

Reminder - 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).

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

KIDS Coaches Available to Assist

Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) coaches are available to help teachers, administrators, and districts with additional training and technical support. KIDS coaches provide a range of services, including one-on-one technical assistance calls and visits, group coaching sessions, classroom walkthroughs, overview meetings, and support in interpreting and using data to improve classroom instruction. The new “[Find Your KIDS Coach](/Pages/KIDS-Coach-Map.aspx)” [interactive map](/Pages/KIDS-Coach-Map.aspx) (/Pages/KIDS-Coach-Map.aspx) will help districts easily identify their KIDS coaches.

The Mastering KIDS Summit Highlights Report is now available online! The report shares a summary of the Dec. 14, 2017, summit in Rosemont. Presentations from the summit are available on the [KIDS Administrators and Teachers page](/Pages/KIDSAdminandTeachers.aspx) (/Pages/KIDSAdminandTeachers.aspx).

CHARTER SCHOOLS

NUTRITION PROGRAMS

ASSESSMENTS & ACCOUNTABILITY

SCHOOL SAFETY

EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY

FUNDING & DISBURSEMENTS

WELLNESS PROGRAMS

GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY TRANSPARENCY ACT

IN BRIEF

Administrator Recognition

- Congratulations to **Andy Anderson, principal of Conrady Junior High School in Hickory Hills**, who was named 2018 Illinois Middle School Principal of the Year by the Illinois Principals Association!
- Congratulations to **Gloria Trejo, principal of Pioneer Elementary School in West Chicago**, who was named 2018 Illinois Elementary Principal of the Year by the Illinois Principals Association!
- Congratulations to **Amy Quattrone, assistant principal of Westmont Junior High School**, who was named 2018 Illinois Assistant Principal of the Year by the Illinois Principals Association!
- Congratulations to **Paul Kelly, principal of Elk Grove High School**, who was named 2018 Illinois High School Principal of the Year by the Illinois Principals Association!

Upcoming Events

- February is **Career and Technical Education Month®**. This is a great opportunity to highlight the work of students and teachers, and celebrate the value of career and technical education. Share your CTE stories by using #CTEMonth. Find [resources from the Association for Career and Technical Education](https://www.acteonline.org/general.aspx?id=2722#.WoRe8K6nFhH) (<https://www.acteonline.org/general.aspx?id=2722#.WoRe8K6nFhH>) here.
- The **Illinois Global Scholar Student Summit** will held on March 3 at the I Hotel in Champaign. The theme of the summit is "The Power of Perspective." Students and educators attending will have opportunities to develop global competencies, recognize the perspectives of self and others, and sharpen social-emotional learning skills. [Registration now available](http://global-illinois.org/champaignsummit/) (<http://global-illinois.org/champaignsummit/>). Contact Seth Brady at sbrady@global-illinois.org (<mailto:sbrady@global-illinois.org>) with any questions.
- Plan something special for **School Lunch Hero Day (May 4)** and **School Nutrition Employee Week (May 7-11)** (<https://schoolnutrition.org/SLHD/SamplePressReleaseProclamation/>)!

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.

Recognition Opportunities

- The Illinois Department on Aging is accepting nominations for the **2018 Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame**, an annual event recognizing exceptional individuals over 65 who have positively influenced Illinois communities. One of the four categories is Education. For more information and the nomination form, please visit Illinois Department on Aging's [Hall of Fame page](http://www.illinois.gov/aging/HallofFame/Pages/default.aspx) (<http://www.illinois.gov/aging/HallofFame/Pages/default.aspx>).

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>).