



Weekly Message

Feb. 22, 2017

Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph.D.

Hello,

When students leave our schools, they should leave with the keys to open multiple doors, any of which can lead to a successful future. The State Board of Education has made it a priority for students to graduate high school ready for college and career. In recognition of Career and Technical Education Month® (CTE Month) this February, I would like to celebrate the role CTE plays in equipping students with the skills they need to thrive in college and career in the 21st century.

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Illinois is home to incredible CTE programs that help our students gain the knowledge and skills they need to achieve career success in a myriad of fields. Districts have collaborated with each other and with community partners to enhance the opportunities available to Illinois students. This #CTEMonth, I would like to highlight a partnership between [Kewanee High School](#)'s Foods Class, the Henry/Stark County Health Department, and a local McDonald's Restaurant that has enabled students to participate in a food handler certification class through the health department. More than 40 students passed the class and obtained a food handler license, which employees must have to work in a food establishment. The owners of the local McDonald's generously funded this endeavor. This collaboration will benefit students with increased employment opportunities, both as they seek high school employment and as they progress in their careers.



I also had the opportunity to visit the [Technology Center of DuPage](#) (TCD) earlier this month. It was exciting to watch students demonstrate their skills and hear them share their career plans and goals. TCD's mission is "to provide an education environment that supports and encourages individual learning styles, develops occupational skills and professionalism, promotes academic growth, and assists students in discovering their potential." TCD offers training in career pathway clusters such as architecture and construction, health science, hospitality and tourism, and information technology. On TCD's campus, students

are provided with work-based learning opportunities in a restaurant, bistro, and deli; an automotive repair shop; a full-service salon; a print shop; and a preschool.

The value of CTE is clear – and it is important that students across Illinois have access to resources to help them explore their future paths. Our new [College and Career Readiness Student Resources page](#) shares a variety of tools students can use as they embark on their journey to college and career. One of these resources is the free Illinois Reality Check mobile app from the Illinois Department of Employment Security and the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology. Reality Check helps users learn about the educational requirements and salary ranges of different occupations, and evaluate possible career options. The app poses questions such as “Where do you want to live?” and “What will you use for transportation?”, summarizes the monthly cost of a user’s selections, and generates a list of occupations that have the potential to meet this total. The app can be downloaded from [iTunes](#) and the [Google Play store](#). Learn more about Reality Check [here](#).

Finally, I would like to update you on the status of the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA). On March 1, third- through eighth-graders and some high school students will begin taking the assessment. Though many Illinois students took the ISA for the first time in 2016, budgetary uncertainty at the state level delayed the start of the scoring process. ISBE expects schools to have spring 2016 assessment results in summer 2017. The delayed results will not affect individual students’ learning or their prospects for success when they take the ISA this spring. The Illinois Science Assessment 2017 Webinar on Friday at 11 a.m. will review ISA, highlight system enhancements, and demonstrate ISA systems. Register for the webinar [here](#).

A recording and FAQ from the webinar will be available [online](#) afterward, along with a letter to help you communicate with the families in your districts about the assessment.

Keep up the great work!

Tony

Upcoming ISBE Dates and Deadlines

Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings, and deadlines. For questions, call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663 or (217) 782-4321 or visit the agency’s official website at <http://www.isbe.net>.

- **Illinois Science Assessment 2017 Webinar** - Feb. 24 (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-Science-Assessment.aspx>)
- **Deadline to submit FY 18 Notice of Intent to Submit Proposal for the Prevention Initiative: Birth to 3 Years RFP** – Feb. 28 (www.isbe.net/Pages/Birth-to-Age-3-Years.aspx)
- **Deadline to submit FY 18 Notice of Intent to Submit Proposal for the Preschool for All Expansion Grant: 3 to 5 Years RFP** – Feb. 28 (www.isbe.net/Pages/Preschool-Development-Grant-Expansion-Grant.aspx)
- **Deadline to submit FY 18 Notice of Intent to Submit Proposal for the Preschool for All: 3 to 5 Years RFP** – Feb. 28 (www.isbe.net/Pages/Preschool-For-All.aspx)
- **Deadline to submit QZAB Program applications** – Feb. 28 (www.isbe.net/Pages/Qualified-Zone-Academy-Bonds.aspx)
- **Deadline to submit proposals for Illinois Teach to Lead Summit** – March 1
- **Deadline to submit application for TECH 2017** – March 8 (<http://iceberg.org/tech>.)
- **Deadline to submit Migrant Education Program applications** – March 10 (www.isbe.net/Documents/20-37A-FY17-SUMMER-all-12-19-2016-Secured.pdf)

- **2017 Illinois Arts Education Week** – March 13-19
- **Deadline to submit Charter School Program - QSO RFP** – March 20
- **Nonpublic/Public School ESSA Conference** – April 5 (www.isbe.net/nonpublicprograms)
- **Every Kid Healthy Week** – April 24-28
- **ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day** – May 29
- **Deadline to submit nomination forms for the 2017-18 Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year program** – June 6 (www.isbe.net/Documents/03-10-those-who-excel.pdf)
- **Deadline to submit data in the Student Health Data Vision** – June 30
- **Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in fall 2017**– Aug. 11 (See www.isbe.net/Pages/Waivers.aspx for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)

College and Career Readiness

Illinois Science and Social Science Workshop for Elementary Educators

A workshop developed by ISBE Content Area Specialists is being offered to help empower teachers and educational leaders to bring out the change necessary to implement the Illinois Learning Standards for Science and Social Science in elementary classrooms.

Workshop objectives include engaging in elementary aligned content incorporating inquiry to emphasize the full intent of the standards, exploring sample interdisciplinary units and lessons into unit planning, examining elementary level standards implementation resources, encompassing content within literacy block while fully meeting standards, and empowering educators to be advocates for change.

Dates and Locations:

All workshops are from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

- March 30 - [East Peoria](#)
- March 31 - [Rockford](#)
- April 4 - [Marion](#)

For more information, visit

www.ilclassroomsinaction.org/upcoming-professional-development.html.

Apprenticeship Plus Youth Program

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity announces the release of a competitive grant opportunity to support the Governor's Cabinet on Children and Youth Apprenticeship Plus initiative

in Illinois. A summary of the grant application is available at <https://www.illinoisworknet.com/youthnofo>. This funding opportunity is limited to youth apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships for youth between the ages of 16-24 within three regions of the state.

Educator Effectiveness

National Board Certification Candidate Fee Subsidy Now Available

The Illinois State Board of Education is pleased to announce the opening of the 2017 spring window for the Illinois \$1,900 NBPTS Candidate Fee Subsidy. The National Board Resource Center at Illinois State University will process applications for eligible Illinois teachers and counselors. National Board Certification offers a way for accomplished teachers to be assessed and recognized and a way for parents to know their child's teacher has met high and rigorous standards.

For more information, please visit

<http://nbc.illinoisstate.edu/>.

Nutrition and Wellness Programs

SNA Presents Mushroom Contest for School Nutrition Professionals

The [School Nutrition Association](#) is teaming up with the [Mushroom Council](#) to offer a contest promoting the use of mushrooms in school recipes and farm-to-school efforts.

Entries can feature a meat-mushroom blend or highlight fresh or cooked mushrooms. Blending mushrooms into burgers, sloppy joes, marinara sauces, and tacos are some of the creative ways school

nutrition professionals can incorporate more mushrooms into student meals.

The grand-prize winner of the “Blend the Rules” contest will receive a \$5,000 Farm to School Grant. Up to two runner-ups will be awarded a \$1,500 Farm to School Grant. Additional districts will receive mushroom growing kits.

Here are a couple helpful resources from the Mushroom Council to help schools get started:

- [Farm to School: Mushroom Harvest of the Month Kit](#)
- [Mushroom Fact Sheet](#)

Mushrooms can be from anywhere in the United States or IQF mushrooms procured through the USDA Foods program. The deadline to enter is April 27. For more information, visit <http://www.mushroomsinschools.com/blend-the-rules/>.

Summer Food Service Program Information Sessions for New Sponsors and Sites

It’s only February but the Summer Food Service Program, also known as Summer Meals, is preparing for the 2017 summer session. The program is for non-profit sponsors or meal sites eligible by school data or census. If you know of schools or community organizations interested in participating, please refer them to the [2017 Summer Meals Information Session document](#) for the information session schedule. These sessions provide information only. For training on the program, organizations must attend one of the SFSP New Sponsor Training Workshops.

To register for a mandatory new sponsor SFSP Training Workshop, please refer staff or organizations to <http://webprod1.isbe.net/cnsclendar/asp/eventlist.asp>.

Please remember that any school that operates a summer program in a building with a 50 percent or greater free and reduced-price percentage in the National School Lunch Program must serve a breakfast and/or a lunch to students in attendance.

These schools must also open their doors to children 18 and younger in the community to participate in the Seamless Summer Option or in Summer Meals, unless the regional superintendent has granted a waiver.

If you have questions about the Seamless Summer Option or Summer Meals, please call ISBE’s Nutrition and Wellness Division at (800) 545-7892. You may also email cnp@isbe.net to order Summer Meals fliers so children in your community can locate the closest meal site.

Charter Schools

Illinois State Charter School Commission Best Practice Report

Local school boards and superintendents interested in taking advantage of the Illinois’ \$42 million Charter School Program (CSP) grant award are invited to review a new best practice report presented by the Illinois State Charter School Commission. Local districts are encouraged to consider developing a proactive, strategic and priority-focused approach to charter school development. This succinct report provides practical guidance and resources to “*develop and manage a high-quality process to request and evaluate charter school proposals.*” The report is available at www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Charter-School-Commission.aspx.

Charter Schools Program – QSO – Request for Proposals Now Available

The electronic Charter Schools Program - QSO Program Design and Initial Implementation Request for Proposals (RFP)-Cohort II is now available through IWAS. All responses must be submitted electronically to ISBE by 4 p.m. on March 20.

Any applicants interested in applying will need to submit the Letter of Intent to Apply Form in order to gain electronic access to the RFP. The Letter of Intent to Apply and further grant information can be found at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Charter-Schools.aspx>.

If you have questions, please email charter@isbe.net or call Charter Schools at (312) 814-2220.

School Health Issues

IDPH and ISBE Working to Issue Guidance on P.A. 099-0922 Lead In Water Testing

On Jan. 17, Governor Rauner signed Senate Bill 550 into law ([Public Act 099-0922](#)). The Act aims to reduce children's exposure to lead by requiring each school that serves pre-K through grade 5 students to test its water for lead. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is mandated to administer these requirements and to provide guidance on risk management and mitigation of lead in water, and education about lead poisoning. The Act states that IDPH will publish guidance for schools on its website within 90 days from Jan. 17. IDPH is currently creating an informational pamphlet that will soon be distributed to districts and posted on both the [IDPH](#) and [ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness](#) websites. For questions, please contact dph.LeadH2O@illinois.gov.

Funding and Disbursements

New Census Estimates Released for FY 2018 Title I Low Income

The U.S. Department of Education has released the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) for income year 2015. These estimates will be used to calculate FY 2018 Title I allocations. A file of 2015 Poverty Data by Local Education Agency (LEA) is provided in an alphabetical listing of LEAs, Poverty Count, 5-17 Population, Poverty Percentage, and Total Population at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/New-Census-Estimates-Released.aspx>

LEAs can use this data to determine their potential eligibility for Basic, Concentration, Targeted and Education Finance Incentive grants (EFIG).

Basic Grant eligibility: An LEA must have at least 10 poverty children and the number of poverty children must be greater than 2 percent of the LEA population of children ages 5-17.

Concentration Grant eligibility: An LEA must have at least 6,500 poverty children or the number of those children exceeds 15 percent of the total 5-17 population.

Targeted Grant and EFIG qualifications: An LEA must have at least 10 poverty children and that number must be at least 5 percent of the 5-17 population.

The following link to the Census Bureau, www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/index.html, provides various aspects of the SAIPE count, including the data sources and methodology used to prepare these data. We will be using the 2015 data to calculate school year 2017-18 Title I, Part A allocations because they are the most recent available data.

Superintendents, business managers, and Title I directors should carefully examine the data for their LEA as this will be the first indication as to whether your LEA may be gaining or losing in eligibility for Title I funds in FY 2018. ISBE neither controls nor generates the data. The challenge period for the 2015 estimates ends March 13, 2017. Refer to the Census Bureau link at www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/contact/challenges.html, if interested.

Note that this preliminary data does not include other non-census information, such as foster, neglected, or delinquent counts that may be used to calculate Title I allocations.

If you have questions, please contact Sally Cray in the Division of Funding and Disbursements at scray@isbe.net or (217) 782-5256.

In Brief

Student Recognition

- **Congrats to William Bauman and Kayli Roe** for being named Illinois' top youth volunteers in the 22nd annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program! William is a junior at Grayslake North High School and Kayli is a seventh-grader at Immanuel Lutheran School in Palatine. For more information, visit <https://spirit.prudential.com/>. Great job, William and Kayli!

Professional Development

- **Online Impact**, a program offered by the Center for Education Initiative at Illinois State University and supported by the Illinois State Board of Education is offering educators from Illinois

online workshops focused on classroom practice. Workshops can be completed online at your own pace. Workshops have been designed by Illinois educators with years of experience in the subject area of the workshop. For more information, visit <http://onlineimpact.isbe.net/>.

- The **National Board Resource Center (NBRC)** is seeking administrators interested in a research-based ongoing professional development opportunity. There are currently forty-seven National Board Professional Development Schools in Illinois led by administrator leaders. The NBRC is expanding this program to include an additional 25 schools/districts to take part in this opportunity during the 2017-18 school year. This program is school based and includes several research-based instructional strategies that focus on implementing effective teaching approaches that nurture critical thinking. Application deadline is March 27. Call Debra Kasperski at (309) 438-1833 for more information or to set up an appointment.
- The **Illinois High School & College Driver Education Association (IHSCDEA)** has developed a new format this year to service the State of Illinois driver education teacher education needs. The IHSCDEA and Northern Illinois University have joined together to offer the IHSCDEA Professional Development Program. Complete course overviews, costs, and enrollment information can be found at www.IHSCDEA.org by clicking on "CERTIFICATION" and looking for the IHSCDEA-PDP details.

District Opportunities

- The deadline for applications for **TECH 2017** has been extended to March 8. TECH 2017 showcases how students and teachers across the state use technology in classrooms to enhance student learning and is scheduled for May 9 at the Illinois State Capitol Building in Springfield. Find out more information, including how your district can be one of the 100 schools representing Illinois, at <http://iceberg.org/tech>.

District Recognition

- Congratulations to [Haines Elementary School](#) for being named the 2017 Illinois National Title I Distinguished School. Keep up the great work!

Educator Opportunities

- ROE West 40 ISC #2 is hosting the **Midwest Summit for 21st Century Learning** from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. on May 1 in Oak Brook. To register, please visit www.mws.2017.eventbrite.com.

Employment Opportunities

- Watch for ISBE career opportunities and find instructions for applying at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx>.