

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

August 14, 2018



Thank you for the great turnout last week at ISBE's School Nutrition Programs Back to School Conference! Hundreds of school nutritional professionals attended to learn and connect.

We know there is clear connection between good nutrition and children's readiness to learn. The only meals many of our students get are at school. Nationally, 12.3 percent of children are from food-insecure households. Illinois surpasses this figure: 17.3 percent of Illinois children are from food-insecure households.

We have so many children dependent on our schools to help meet their basic needs; therefore, we must fulfill our responsibility to provide high-quality, healthy foods. The agrarian nature of the State of Illinois gives us an amazing opportunity to feed students the best foods available. The creative and dedicated nutrition professionals at last week's conference illustrate every day how critical our schools are to supporting whole, healthy communities and families.

We have to feed each other as learners and leaders, too. At ISBE, we believe peer-to-peer support and collaboration will result in the best opportunities for students across the state. Three superintendents shared their experiences and ideas during the Back to School webinar – an example of the network we want to facilitate. Watch the recording at www.isbe.net/backtoschool (<http://www.isbe.net/backtoschool>).

Jonathan Tallman, superintendent of Red Bud CSD 132, emphasized the value of celebrating everyone on staff. He spoke about social media as a positive tool that can empower everyone to be a storyteller. (Share your photos with ISBE by tagging @ISBEnews on Twitter with the hashtag #ILbacktoschool or emailing backtoschool@isbe.net (mailto:backtoschool@isbe.net)!)

Dr. David Schuler, superintendent of Township HSD 214 and National Superintendent of the Year, also reinforced the power of sharing our success stories. He suggested elevating stories that are relevant to the student experience and to each community and noted that there are opportunities to encourage students to share their stories as well.

ISBE's storytellers, a part of IL-EMPOWER, are working to identify and promote effective practices in schools and districts across the state. The heart of IL-EMPOWER is that we believe deeply that there is extraordinary wisdom, thoughtfulness, and leadership in schools and districts. We want to create the conditions and platforms for you to access and strengthen connections with other schools and districts on your own. Learn more from this afternoon's IL-EMPOWER deep-dive webinar, which we will post on the [Back to School webpage](#) (/backtoschool).

We introduced the new [Peer Finder](#) (/Pages/peer-finder.aspx) tool last week, as well as the *Advanced* Compare Schools option on the [Illinois Report Card](#) (<https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/>). The Peer Finder and Advanced Compare Schools feature work in conjunction to provide you with as much useful information as possible to collaborate with your peers. You can search for and view schools side by side.

Quick Links

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Let us know if the tools do not include information you are looking for.

Finally, Dr. Alicia Geddis, superintendent of Danville SD 118, spoke about the district's multilayered approach to reach every child – finding ways to leverage resources and empowering every staff member to connect with every child. The district is paying deep attention to trauma and the context of generational poverty and emphasizing trauma-informed and culturally relevant teaching.

As a state, we are becoming more student- and family-centered in our approach to supporting our children. Preparing adults to serve children and fortifying efforts across districts will get us where we need to go. Thank you to Ed Leaders Network for partnering to record a short [welcome back video](https://vimeo.com/284028310) (https://vimeo.com/284028310) so I could share more information about ISBE's vision and charge for the year and express my appreciation for all the work you do to care for our students.



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.

Aug. 15: Deadline to submit 2017-18 Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim

Aug. 15: Deadline for waiver applications to be postmarked to be part of 2018 Fall Waiver Report

Aug. 15: Deadline to submit EIS employment/positions, evaluations, attendance, and salary

Aug. 16-17: [2018-19 School Health Update webinars - IDPH Session and ISBE Session](https://www.isbe.net/pages/school-health-issues.aspx) (https://www.isbe.net/pages/school-health-issues.aspx)

Aug. 20: Public comment period for Part 227 rules ends

Aug. 24: [Back to School Deep-Dive Webinar: Assessments Update](https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/7167545164522275074) (https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/7167545164522275074)

Aug. 24: Deadline to Submit Nominations for KIDS Data Use Train-the-Trainer Workshops

Aug. 27: Deadline to Apply for Federal Funding Opportunity for School-Age Trauma Training

Aug. 29: [Back to School Deep-Dive Webinar: 2018 Report Card and Beyond!](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7454636452226567169) (https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7454636452226567169)

Aug. 29: [Deadline to resubmit new Audit Certification Form through the GATA Grantee Portal](https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/) (https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/)

Aug. 31: District Average Daily Attendance due in IWAS

Sept. 3: ISBE offices closed for Labor Day

Sept. 7: [Deadline to submit Capital Needs Assessment Survey](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Capital-Needs-Assessment-Survey.aspx) (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Capital-Needs-Assessment-Survey.aspx)

Sept. 11-12: [Illinois State Board of Education Retreat and meeting](https://www.isbe.net/Documents/2018_Board_Calendar.pdf) (https://www.isbe.net/Documents/2018_Board_Calendar.pdf)

Sept. 18: [Evidence-Based Funding Professional Review Panel Meeting](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Professional-Review-Panel.aspx) (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Professional-Review-Panel.aspx)

Oct. 8: ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day

Oct. 17: [Illinois State Board of Education meeting](https://www.isbe.net/Documents/2018_Board_Calendar.pdf) (https://www.isbe.net/Documents/2018_Board_Calendar.pdf)

Oct. 18: [Annual Earthquake Awareness Drill](https://www.shakeout.org/centralus/index.html) (https://www.shakeout.org/centralus/index.html)

THOSE WHO EXCEL

Meet Teacher of the Year Finalist Lindsay Adams

Lindsay Adams teaches chemistry, physics, forensic science, and unified science at Gallatin County High School in Gallatin County Community Unit District 7. Lindsay, who was born and raised in Gallatin County in far southeastern Illinois, says that the towns in that area are “too small to be considered independent of one another, so we simply refer to our home as Gallatin County.”



Lindsay says she has always loved science. She is fascinated with nature and its biological processes. As a student, she was eager to learn; both her junior high and high school biology teachers encouraged her to pursue a career as either a medical professional or an engineer. When Lindsay was a junior in college, she decided to enter the student teaching program. She credits a former teacher with changing her life, and Lindsay realized that she wanted to make a difference in her students' lives.

Lindsay is entering her ninth year of teaching, but they aren't nine consecutive years. A few years ago, Lindsay found herself struggling with the realization that she had never tried something different. She had spent the majority of her life -- grade school, college, and career -- within a 60-mile radius. Lindsay's second love is photography and film so she decided to enter a master's program in film production at Ohio University. Her replacement at Gallatin County taught one year and decided not to come back. Lindsay was asked to return to Gallatin County, even though she had just completed a year of classes. She made the decision to go back to teaching and she firmly believes her year of master's work made her a better teacher.

Students learn to use cameras, edit film, put short movies together, and much more in Lindsay's unified science class. Her work on the Citizen Continental America Telescopic Eclipse Experiment enabled her to share her knowledge about last year's total solar eclipse with the area's citizens, as well as her students. The county's unique location on the eclipse's path made it a perfect site to make a film. She worked with students all summer long, training them to use special telescopes in various locations to get the best views of the eclipse. The end result was a movie titled "Countdown to the Eclipse," a short education documentary that is available on Amazon. One of Lindsay's colleagues describes the experience by saying, "It created memories and lessons that will never be forgotten."

Lindsay is also one of the coaches for the school's Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) team. Gallatin County has won the state WYSE competition three years in a row. In her forensic science class, she creates a murder mystery complete with script, evidence, and clues that the students must solve. Former District 7 Superintendent Lucinda Schmitt described Lindsay's impact by saying, "Lindsay is the kind of educator that all schools wish they had, and we are the fortunate ones to actually have her teaching and challenging our students to learn and fostering in them a love for science."

Lindsay is one of 10 finalists for Illinois Teacher of the Year, who will be named at the Those Who Excel banquet in Normal on October 20.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Seeking Nominations for KIDS Data Use Train-the-Trainer Workshops

The Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Midwest is requesting nominations of district teachers, leaders, and administrators to become KIDS Data Use Workshop Facilitators. District administrators can nominate two to four teacher leaders and/or administrators (including themselves) to attend a KIDS Data Use train-the-trainer workshop.

REL Midwest partnered with ISBE during the 2017-18 school year to host multiple Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) Data Use workshops across Illinois to help teachers learn to use KIDS data to guide classroom planning. Due to the overwhelmingly positive response from the field, REL Midwest and ISBE are again partnering to offer the opportunity for a one-day KIDS Data Use train-the-trainer workshop in three locations in the state to build the capacity of teacher leaders, administrators, and other staff to facilitate the KIDS Data Use workshops. The train-the-trainer workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Grayslake (Monday, Oct. 22), in Springfield (Wednesday, Oct. 24), and in Centralia (Monday, Nov. 5). This workshop is free. Professional development credit is available.

The train-the-trainer workshop will:

- Familiarize participants with the KIDS Data Use workshop materials,
- Enhance participants' facilitation skills, and
- Provide an opportunity for participants to practice facilitating the KIDS Data Use workshop.

Please email Billie Jo Day at bday@air.org (mailto:bday@air.org) by Aug. 24 with the name(s) and email address(es) of up to four teacher leaders and/or administrators you would like to nominate to become KIDS Data Use workshop facilitators, and conduct the KIDS Data Use workshops across the state. REL Midwest will reach out to nominees and invite them to register. Our hope is that the workshop increases the capacity of districts and the state to train kindergarten teachers in the interpretation and analysis of their KIDS data to set educational goals in efforts to improve outcomes for all Illinois children.

REL Midwest, funded by the Institute of Education Sciences, works in partnership with practitioners in seven Midwestern states to meet practitioners' needs in terms of research, trainings, and technical assistance.

Please contact Billie Jo Day with any questions at bday@air.org (mailto:bday@air.org) or call (312) 690-7367.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Approved Options for Districts Without an ISBE-Licensed Nurse

Public school districts that do not have an ISBE-licensed school nurse (RN with PEL, endorsed in school nursing) to perform health evaluations and health plans for special education students may follow the process explained on the Special Education and Mental Health tab on the [School Health Issues webpage](/Pages/School-Health-Issues.aspx) (/Pages/School-Health-Issues.aspx).

The next IEP training for non-PEL RNs, "RNs in Schools -- Expanding Your Special Education Role," will be offered Jan. 16-Feb. 26, 2019. If appropriate, another option is that the non-PEL RN may obtain the credentials by passing the School Nurse Content Test #236, available beginning Sept. 3, 2018. No earlier test versions will be approved for the test option for IEP designation.

A district may hire a nurse applicant who does not have the PEL and school nurse designation to perform health evaluations and plans for special education students as long as the applicant already holds the IEP designation (verifiable on ELIS). The district must still follow the procedure outlined above, including documenting that a fully qualified school nurse was sought, before that the person hired is approved for IEP work in the district.

In this case, only district documents are required; no further test or course is required. Contact Jessica Gerdes at jgerdes@isbe.net (mailto:jgerdes@isbe.net) with questions.

Illinois MTSS Network Professional Learning

The Illinois MTSS Network (IL MTSS-N) provides high-quality professional learning for schools and districts in order to develop and sustain multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS). MTSS is a framework for continuous improvement that is systemic, prevention focused, and data informed, providing a coherent continuum of supports responsive to meet the needs of all learners. In the past five years, the IL MTSS-N provided professional learning, technical assistance, and/or coaching to more than 500 Illinois Local Education Agencies. By partnering with the IL MTSS-N, you can expect:

- [Coaching and professional development](https://www.iltmss.net/resources/coaches/) (https://www.iltmss.net/resources/coaches/) for small or large groups
- Synchronous or asynchronous learning through [online modules](https://www.iltmss.net/online-learning-2-3/) (https://www.iltmss.net/online-learning-2-3/) and webinars
- Consultation, problem-solving, and connection to resources

IL MTSS-N has been supporting Illinois schools for nearly 20 years so it has the longevity and experience to address challenges schools and districts face when engaging in systemic continuous improvement. The IL MTSS-N has a track record of effectively improving equitable outcomes for students. The IL MTSS-N is an approved IL-EMPOWER learning partner and currently supports the work of ISBE through the State Personnel Improvement Grant, the State Systemic Improvement Plan, and Illinois AWARE.

To learn more about how IL MTSS-N can support your school or district, visit the [IL MTSS-N website](https://www.iltmss.net/) (https://www.iltmss.net/) or contact [Julie West](mailto:julie.west@iltmss.net) at julie.west@iltmss.net (mailto:julie.west@iltmss.net). [Back to Top](#)

GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY ACT

GATA Updates

Revised Audit Certification Form

The fiscal year 2018 Statewide Audit Certification Form was revised on Aug. 6, 2018. Dollar thresholds changed and an additional question was added to the form. The new dollar thresholds may alter the type of audit required.

All school districts and entities must complete and resubmit the new Audit Certification Form through the [GATA Grantee Portal](https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/) (<https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>) no later than **Aug. 29**. Districts will continue to upload completed audits to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse.

Questions may be directed to GATA Administration at (217) 782-5630 or GATA@isbe.net (<mailto:GATA@isbe.net>)

SAM Registration and Renewal Requirement

The Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) requires all entities to maintain an active DUNS number and active registration with the federal System for Award Management (SAM). Expired or invalid SAM accounts will delay the ISBE grant application process.

All entities creating, renewing, or updating SAM registrations are required to mail an original, signed, notarized letter to SAM confirming the authorized Entity Administrator associated with the entity's DUNS number within 30 days of account activation. Failure to do so within 30 days of activation may result in the registration no longer being active.

ISBE encourages all grantees to review their accounts frequently at [www.SAM.gov](https://sam.gov/portal/SAM/#%2311) (<https://sam.gov/portal/SAM/#%2311>) and to renew at least two months prior to expiration.

Further information is available at [www.SAM.gov](https://sam.gov/portal/SAM/#%2311) (<https://sam.gov/portal/SAM/#%2311>) or through the Federal Service Desk at (866) 606-8220.

EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

Continuous Improvement Communities of Practice

ISBE has enlisted the support of the Branch Alliance for Educator Diversity to develop and launch a pilot initiative aimed at establishing Continuous Improvement Communities of Practice (CICPs). The goal of this pilot is to leverage the work of the Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability and Reform (CEEDAR) initiative to catalyze collaborative learning and leadership around key issues related to the launch of the Partnership for Educator Preparation statewide data system. CICPs are led by a state-approved educator preparation provider (EPP), include one or more PK-12 public school district partners, and may also include other EPPs. A kickoff event was held on June 19-20 on the campus of Governors State University. CICIP leadership teams that participated in the kickoff consisted of two representatives from the lead EPP, two representatives from the partner district, and one individual to serve as the data lead for the CICIP. Participants came to agreement on the nature of the CICIP model and set goals for the enhancement of their partnerships. Teams also established goals for their collaborative projects, mapping out action plans for the next 12 months.

Visit the [Continuous Improvement Communities of Practice webpage](/Pages/Continuous-Improvement-Communities-of-Practice.aspx) (</Pages/Continuous-Improvement-Communities-of-Practice.aspx>) for more information.

RULES & WAIVERS

Reminder: Fall Waiver Report Deadline Aug. 15

The deadline for waiver applications to be postmarked is Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2018, to be considered as part of the 2018 Fall Waiver Report. Please make sure all applications are sent certified mail, return receipt requested. Contact the Division of Regulatory Support and Wellness at (217) 782-5270 with any questions.

SAFE AND HEALTHY CLIMATE

Annual Earthquake Awareness Drill Oct. 18

Did you know some of the most powerful earthquakes to ever occur in the United States actually took place in southern Illinois and surrounding areas? That's why each year our state participates in the Great American Shakeout earthquake drill. Currently, only 30 percent of the schools in the critical seismic area of our state are registered to participate. An earthquake can occur anywhere at any time, so we are encouraging all schools to participate in this simple drill at 10:18 a.m. on Oct. 18, 2018. This is a great opportunity to teach your students how to *Drop, Cover, and Hold On*. [Register your school today](https://www.shakeout.org/centralus/index.html) (https://www.shakeout.org/centralus/index.html). Contact the Illinois Emergency Management Agency at (217) 557-4756 to learn more about how you can incorporate this important life-safety lesson into your curriculum.

Federal Funding Opportunity for School-Age Trauma Training

The Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have created a funding opportunity to provide trauma training for high school communities. The School Age Trauma Training is intended to establish a long-term, self-sustaining mechanism (e.g., no further federal funding beyond Phase III) to deliver free, lifesaving trauma training to public high school students for mass casualty events.

Uncontrolled bleeding is the No. 1 cause of preventable death from trauma. This initiative is designed to enhance a bystander's ability to take decisive, lifesaving action to assist victims with traumatic injuries until first responders arrive on the scene.

Eligible applicants include:

- Small businesses
- For-profit organizations other than small businesses
- Independent school districts
- Private institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits other than institutions of higher education that have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS
- Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education

The closing date for applications is Aug. 27, 2018. [Learn more about the opportunity](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=307563) (https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=307563).

EVIDENCE-BASED FUNDING

FY 2019 Evidence-Based Funding Calculations Complete

School districts received the first of 22 Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) payments for FY 2019 on Aug. 10. This represents both the Base Funding Minimum (BFM) amount, often referred to as the hold harmless provision, and tier funding amounts newly calculated for FY 2019.


Per statute, the Base Funding Minimum amount grows annually by the amount of tier funding paid in the prior year and the additional English Learner funding from FY 2018. In FY 2019, the BFM consists of three components – the FY 2018 BFM amount, the FY 2018 tier funding amount, and the FY 2018 additional English Learner funding. In addition to the BFM, districts receive an additional \$300 million in funding distributed through the tiers, with the greatest share of funding going to those districts with the greatest need for assistance.

Beginning in FY 2019, there is also \$50 million reserved for a new property tax relief grant program. More details about this grant will be available in the weeks ahead. Any funds not used for tax relief grants will be available as additional tier distribution amounts in the spring.

EBF payments will continue on the 20th of August and the 10th and 20th of each month through June. Full FY 2019 calculations are available at the [EBF Distribution page](#) (/ebfdist).

SITE-BASED EXPENDITURE REPORTING

New ISBE Site-Based Expenditure Reporting Webpage Now Available


ISBE.net has a new webpage specifically dedicated to [Site-Based Expenditure Reporting](#) (/Pages/site-based-expenditure.aspx), which is in effect for the first time this year. Head to www.isbe.net/site-based for all of our resources to help district leaders and others implement site-based expenditure reporting. The page is updated regularly with new resources, such as this week's new release: [Estimating Expenditures for Effective Planning - Webinar for District Leaders](#)  (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/442858387494943234>). District leaders should watch this webinar to learn A) how to estimate your site-based expenditures and B) how doing so will make your life easier at the end of FY 2019, when it comes time to report. This information should set you up for strong decision-making now and easier messaging later.

SCHOOL BUSINESS SERVICES

Requirements for School Treasurer Bonds

Section 3-8 and Section 8-2 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/3-8 and 105 ILCS 5/8-2) require regional superintendents of schools to file a yearly affidavit with ISBE showing which treasurers of school districts in their region are properly bonded. This affidavit must be filed before Sept. 1. Copies of the actual school treasurer bond should not be filed with ISBE.

Section 8-2 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/8-2) requires each treasurer of a school district to be properly bonded. The penalty of the bond shall be 25 percent of the amount of all bonds, notes, mortgages, moneys, and effects of which the treasurer is to have custody at any given time. The bond shall be increased or decreased from time to time, as the increase or decrease of the amount of notes, bonds, mortgages, moneys, and effects may require. The bond shall be payable to the township trustees of schools over the district or payable to the school board of the district, whichever is applicable. The bond shall be filed with the regional superintendent of schools. Again, school districts should not file a copy of their bonds with ISBE.

For additional information on ISBE's interpretation of this section, please refer to the School Business section of the [May 2010 Superintendent's Weekly Message](#)  (/Documents_Superintendent_Weekly_Message/message_050310.pdf).

Section 3-8 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/3-8) describes the duties of the regional superintendent of schools upon receipt of the treasurer bonds. When the bond of any school treasurer is filed with the regional superintendent of schools, the regional superintendent shall carefully examine it. If the bond is found to be in all respects according to law and the sureties sufficient, the regional superintendent shall endorse his/her approval and file it with the papers of his/her office. If the bond is in any respect defective or if the sureties are insufficient, the bond shall be returned for correction.

In Cook County, the responsibilities and duties of the regional superintendent of schools detailed in Section 3-8 and Section 8-2 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/3-8 and 105 ILCS 5/8-2) will be assumed by the respective Intermediate Service Center.

An [electronic version of the affidavit and other information](/Pages/School-Treasurer-Bonds.aspx) (/Pages/School-Treasurer-Bonds.aspx) is available online.

Please contact Michelle Heninger, School Business Services Division, at (217) 785-8779 or mheninge@isbe.net (mailto:mheninge@isbe.net) with any follow-up questions.

FUNDING AND DISBURSEMENT SERVICES

Revised State and Federal Grant Administration, Policy, and Procedures Handbook

The Division of Funding and Disbursement Services has updated the [State and Federal Grant Administration Policy, Fiscal Requirements, and Procedures handbook](/Documents/fiscal_procedure_handbk.pdf) (/Documents/fiscal_procedure_handbk.pdf). The handbook provides useful information for state and federal grant recipients on a variety of general grant related issues. The handbook does not replace or supersede any unique program requirements, statute, or rules.

Major changes include:

- State Funds: If payments are delayed for release by the State Comptroller's office, notification for refund will be will be suspended until the outstanding payments are released (Pages 8, 36 and 62)
- Revisions to Federal and State Compliance Reporting-Grant Accountability and Transparency Act Requirements (Pages 51-54)

Please contact Kim Lewis in the Division of Funding and Disbursement Services at kewis@isbe.net (mailto:kewis@isbe.net) or (217) 782-5256 with any questions.

IN BRIEF

Educator Recognition

- Congratulations to **Blondean Davis** of Southland College Prep Charter High School in Chicago for being named to the [Tougaloo College Board of Trustees](http://www.jacksonfreepress.com/news/2018/aug/07/blondean-davis/) (http://www.jacksonfreepress.com/news/2018/aug/07/blondean-davis/)!
- Congratulations to **Gretchen Brinza of CPS** and **Reginald Duncan of Mascoutah CUD 19** for being honored with Presidential Awards by the [White House Office of Science and Technology, with the National Science Foundation](https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=295842&org=NSF&from=news) (https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=295842&org=NSF&from=news), for their excellence in teaching or mentoring in STEM!
- Congratulations to **Tammi Conn**, director of Career and Technical Education at Valley View School District, for receiving an ACTE Region III Award of Merit!
- Congratulations to **Krista Paul**, assistant director of Career and Technical Education for District 214, for receiving the ACTE Region III Career Guidance Award!
- Congratulations to **Elk Grove High School Principal Paul Kelly** for being named one of three National Principal of the Year finalists by the [National Association of Secondary School Principals](https://www.nassp.org/recognition/principal-of-the-year/national-principal-of-the-year-finalist/) (https://www.nassp.org/recognition/principal-of-the-year/national-principal-of-the-year-finalist/)!

Educator Resources

- The **Illinois Families and School Success website** (<https://il-fss.org/>) offers resources for families and school staff. Check out the new, inspiring success videos now available!

Funding Opportunities

- The **Gateway Scholarship Program** (<http://www.ilgateways.com/index.php/financial-opportunities/scholarship>) has funds available for eligible professionals working in early care and education or school-age programs who want to earn college credit, credentials, or degrees. Visit the Gateway webpage for additional details.

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>).