

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

 Printable PDF


September 12, 2017



Hello,

The decision to repeal the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program continues to weigh heavily on many communities. The economic and social impact of ending DACA could be devastating for the health of the country. President Trump has recommended that Congress act on immigration, but we still have a lack of clarity regarding the short- and long-term outcomes for the children and educators who are here as Dreamers. Thank you for continuing to rally around the children and families in your communities during this time of heightened stress.


We have compiled resources that you may find helpful:

- The National Education Association's EdJustice released [the End of DACA letter](https://3pf92a428h7y2o2e1d3olqk2-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/DACA-Rescission-and-Educators-9.5.17-OGC.pdf)  ([https://3pf92a428h7y2o2e1d3olqk2-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/DACA-](https://3pf92a428h7y2o2e1d3olqk2-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/DACA-Rescission-and-Educators-9.5.17-OGC.pdf)

[Rescission-and-Educators-9.5.17-OGC.pdf](https://3pf92a428h7y2o2e1d3olqk2-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/DACA-Rescission-and-Educators-9.5.17-OGC.pdf)) to help teachers address

their students' DACA questions. [The EdJustice webpage](http://educationvotes.nea.org/neaedjustice/daca-resources/)

(<http://educationvotes.nea.org/neaedjustice/daca-resources/>) with additional information for teachers to assist students who may be directly or indirectly impacted by the end of DACA.


- Rethinking Schools compiled a number of [resources to help elementary-aged children learn about documentation, citizenship, and deportation](https://rethinkingschoolsblog.com/2017/09/07/800000-reasons-to-teach-about-daca/). (<https://rethinkingschoolsblog.com/2017/09/07/800000-reasons-to-teach-about-daca/>)
- (<https://rethinkingschoolsblog.com/2017/09/07/800000-reasons-to-teach-about-daca/>) [The U.S. Department of Homeland Security FAQs](https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/09/05/frequently-asked-questions-rescission-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca) (<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/09/05/frequently-asked-questions-rescission-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca>) directly address the changes that are taking effect after the announcement to rescind DACA.
- [The Immigrant Legal Resource Center community advisory](https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/community_advisory_-_end_of_dacav2.pdf)  (https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/community_advisory_-_end_of_dacav2.pdf) is a helpful resource for educators who are DACA recipients and principals who have DACA recipients in their buildings.
- This [guide for educators and school support staff](https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/spring-2017/immigrant-and-refugee-children-a-guide-for-educators-and-school-support-staff) (<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/spring-2017/immigrant-and-refugee-children-a-guide-for-educators-and-school-support-staff>) from Teaching Tolerance written this past spring provides valuable information around improving school climate in relation to immigrant children and DACA recipients.

Quick Links

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The landscape in Illinois has shifted with Public Act 100-0465 and Public Act 100-0340. The new evidence-based funding formula takes a historic step toward equity and ensuring that every student gets the resources they need to thrive. Public Act 100-0340 increases districts' ability to use Title I funds to serve the highest-need students. More resources and opportunities give us the opportunity to provide more

support for children and families. We can focus on strategies to ensure that children come to school and that they feel welcome and valued in our care. A supportive and engaging environment encourages students and families to be present every day.

Attendance Awareness Month in September affords us the opportunity to think about the specific supports we need in communities to make sure children come to school. When students improve their attendance, they improve their chances for academic success and increase the likelihood that they graduate. Attendance is important year-round, and it is especially important in the first month of school. Inconsistent attendance in the first month of school can be an indicator of poor attendance throughout the school year. It matters if a student is absent 10 percent of school days for any reason, excused or unexcused; missing even two days a month can cause a student to fall behind. Absence from school, particularly for early elementary students, can start a pattern. Quincy Public Schools is one of many school districts across the state doing what it takes to make sure children come to school. The district's [Attendance Adds Up initiative](http://www.whig.com/20170826/new-qps-initiative-aims-to-get-and-keep-kids-in-school) (<http://www.whig.com/20170826/new-qps-initiative-aims-to-get-and-keep-kids-in-school>) is helping to educate students, families, and community members about the importance of attendance. ISBE is analyzing chronic absentee data and how we can support districts in effectively using interventions to improve student attendance. The [Illinois ESSA Plan](#)  ([/Documents/ESSAStatePlanforIllinois.pdf](#)) identifies chronic absenteeism as an indicator of quality and student success for all schools. [Attendance Works](http://www.attendanceworks.org/) (<http://www.attendanceworks.org/>) shares more information about the importance of attendance and resources for you to promote Attendance Awareness Month in your community.



I had the opportunity to visit Hillside School District 93 last week. The district is keeping students engaged with a variety of hands-on and problem-based learning initiatives. I observed sixth-grade students participating in the “Mission to Mars” part of the STEM FUSION program in partnership with the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA). IMSA STEM FUSION is a teacher professional development and student STEM enrichment program, which the school has opened to all fifth- and sixth-grade students. The Mission to Mars initiative helps students “learn how to learn” as they wrestle with logic and difficult questions. I also learned about [Mental Karate](http://www.mentalkarate.com/) (<http://www.mentalkarate.com/>) and discussed goal-setting and


the growth mindset with fifth-grade students. Outside, students have been working with the art teacher to create a peace wall to celebrate diversity, share inspirational messages, and promote unity. Thank you to Hillside School for hosting me! It is always exciting to see thoughtful, creative educators challenging and nurturing students.

We kick off National Hispanic Heritage Month at the end of this week. September 15 through October 15 presents another opportunity to appreciate the contributions and achievements of all of our community members. Our classrooms and schools should be inclusive and connected spaces. Find resources for teachers from the Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum at <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/for-teachers/> (<https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/for-teachers/>). The [National Education Association](http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/hispanic-heritage-month-9-12.html) (<http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/hispanic-heritage-month-9-12.html>), [Scholastic](https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/collections/teaching-content/bring-hispanic-heritage-month-life-collection-resources/) (<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/collections/teaching-content/bring-hispanic-heritage-month-life-collection-resources/>), and [Colorin Colorado](http://www.colorincolorado.org/books-authors/literacy-calendar/hispanic-heritage-month) (<http://www.colorincolorado.org/books-authors/literacy-calendar/hispanic-heritage-month>) also offer book lists, lessons, and activities.

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

Sept. 11-13: [Annual Title I Directors Conference](https://www.regonline.com/registration/Checkin.aspx?EventID=2019814) (<https://www.regonline.com/registration/Checkin.aspx?EventID=2019814>)

Sept. 12: Deadline to submit subject matter expert nominations for SAT standard setting

Sept. 13-14: [Illinois State Board of Education meeting](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx>)

Sept. 18: [Deadline to submit FY 2018 Preschool for All Expansion State RFP](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/RFPs.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/RFPs.aspx>)

Sept. 20: Deadline to review and verify 2017 Report Card Graduation and Dropout Rate Report and Student Mobility Report in IWAS

Sept. 22: Deadline to review and verify 2017 Report Card Educator Characteristics Summary Report in IWAS

Sept. 25: Deadline to review and verify 2017 Report Card Assessment Summary Report in IWAS

Sept. 30: [Deadline for Illinois Bicentennial Celebration student video contest submissions](http://illinois200.marsdigitalmedia.com/index.htm) (<http://illinois200.marsdigitalmedia.com/index.htm>)

Oct. 1: [Deadline to submit Undesignated Epinephrine Policy](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30UeQdMjbpkpAruyvMB9mfN9UOUVLUBHQNIRExGVkoxVEFKSINaMFM0Ni4u) (<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30UeQdMjbpkpAruyvMB9mfN9UOUVLUBHQNIRExGVkoxVEFKSINaMFM0Ni4u>)

Oct. 4: [U.S. Senate Youth Program and Hearst Scholarship applications due](http://www.isbe.net/Documents/USSYP_42-60_RSM.pdf) (http://www.isbe.net/Documents/USSYP_42-60_RSM.pdf)

Oct. 6: [Deadline to submit Thomas Lay Burroughs Award nominations](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/thomas-lay-burroughs-award.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/thomas-lay-burroughs-award.aspx>)

Oct. 9: ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day

Oct. 18: [Illinois State Board of Education meeting](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx>)

Oct. 20: Deadline to submit U.S. Presidential Scholar nominations

Oct. 25-27: [Sharing A Vision conference](http://sharingavision.org) (<http://sharingavision.org>)

Oct. 28: [2017 Those Who Excel banquet](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Those-who-excel.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Those-who-excel.aspx>)

Oct. 31: Deadline to submit FY 2018 School District Budget/Joint Agreement Forms

Nov. 10: ISBE offices closed for Veterans' Day

Nov. 15 - Jan. 18: [5Essentials survey window](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/5Essentials-Survey.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/5Essentials-Survey.aspx>)

Nov. 17: [Illinois State Board of Education meeting](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx) (<http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx>)

Nov. 23-24: ISBE offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday
Nov. 30: FY 2018 NCLB/ESSA Monitoring Instrument due in IWAS

Nov. 30: FY 2018 NCLB/ESSA Title I Comparability Analysis due in IWAS

Dec. 12: [Deadline to submit Arts Education Week Posters](https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IAEW-CONTEST-FORM.pdf) (<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IAEW-CONTEST-FORM.pdf>)

THOSE WHO EXCEL

Meet Teacher of the Year Finalist William 'Bill' Farmer



Bill Farmer has been teaching biology and chemistry at Evanston Township High School (ETHS) for 14 years. He began as a student teacher and has been there ever since. Bill originally pursued a career in the medical field, but during his sophomore year in college he realized that he was becoming a passive recipient of science information rather than an active participant in his learning. He visited a favorite teacher when he was home for winter break that year and realized that his real calling was not to become a doctor but to become a teacher.

He helps students learn to learn by involving them in the teaching process through collaborative group work that helps strengthen their individual and collective content knowledge while also reinforcing their self-confidence. He is credited with being an integral component in his department's initiative to change the freshman experience by detracking biology. Freshmen can now earn honors-level credit by demonstrating content mastery. Bill is also described as a "master of motivating students." Students find themselves loving science under his guidance.

Bill believes profoundly in education as an essential tool for righting social injustice. He is an active supporter of the school's LGBTQ community. Bill allows students to know him as an individual and he stresses the importance of pride of self. One of his former students shared this thought: "One of the qualities that I have always admired about Mr. Farmer was his ability to be our teacher and have our complete respect while also allowing himself to occasionally be our peer. It made for a classroom experience that was fun, effective, and intimate." This past spring, Bill led the first ETHS LGBTQ summit, which attracted nearly 200 students, to affirm and empower their individual identities and potential. Many of the participating students said it was the best day of their school career.

He is a tireless advocate for students, teachers, and education. Bill has served for the past five years as an instructional coach working with 30-plus department teachers to improve instruction. The Science Department chair says that Bill "has led and contributed to countless curriculum projects that impact over 700 biology students each year." He is the president of the teachers union for the district and serves on the Illinois State Charter School Commission. Bill seeks out professional training and opportunities that allow him to foster teacher leadership and elevate the profession.

Bill describes himself as a "devoted advocate for working to make sure that all students, regardless of ZIP code, have access to high-quality public schools." His commitment to students, education, his colleagues, and the profession is evident in all he does.

"A lifelong teacher and determined scholar, Bill is always experimenting with how to improve his own instruction, making changes when he sees a better way to connect with kids and improve their learning, and then sharing his successes with his colleagues," is how District Superintendent Dr. Eric Witherspoon described Bill's methods in his recommendation letter.

Bill is one of our 10 finalists for Illinois Teacher of the Year, who we will name at the Those Who Excel banquet in Normal on October 28.

ILLINOIS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Annual Earthquake Awareness Drill

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is encouraging elementary and secondary schools to participate in the Great Central U.S. ShakeOut at 10:19 a.m. on Oct. 19. The goal of this "Drop, Cover and Hold On" drill is to draw attention to the earthquake hazard that exists in Illinois, across the country, and around the world. Last October, more than 21.2 million people in the central United States participated in ShakeOut. More than 500,000 of those participants were Illinoisans.

The event is part of an international ShakeOut involving millions of participants from more than 40 states and territories and several countries. Schools must be registered either by the district office or individually on the ShakeOut website at www.shakeout.org/centralus/ (<http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/>) to be counted as a participant. Another day may be selected to conduct a drill if a school cannot participate on Oct. 19. The school should still register on the ShakeOut website even if another day is selected. Once registered, either the school or the district office will receive ShakeOut news and other information about earthquakes and preparedness.

Visit the Shakeout website for free earthquake information and resources. Additional earthquake preparedness and mitigation information is available at www.ready.illinois.gov (<http://www.ready.illinois.gov>) and www.cusec.org (<http://www.cusec.org>). For more information, contact Jason Williams at IEMA at (217) 785-9925 or jason.b.williams@illinois.gov (<mailto:jason.b.williams@illinois.gov>).

FUNDING AND DISBURSEMENTS

Teachers Retirement System – Federal Contribution Rate Adjustment – FY 2018

Please be advised that the Employer TRS (Teachers Retirement System) contribution on federally funded salaries has been adjusted due to enactment of Public Act 100-0340. The Teachers Retirement System was required to recertify the appropriation amount to TRS from the State of Illinois for fiscal year 2018. The employer TRS contributions on salaries paid from federal funds for the 2017-18 school year has changed from 44.61 percent to 10.10 percent. This change is retroactive to July 1, 2017. The contribution rate change can be found at www.trsil.org (<http://www.trsil.org>) under the [Contribution Rates and Earnings Limitations](https://www.trsil.org/employers/payments/contribution-rates_earnings-limitations) (https://www.trsil.org/employers/payments/contribution-rates_earnings-limitations) link.

For more information, please contact TRS at (877) 927-5877 or visit its website at www.trsil.org (<http://www.trsil.org>).

FY 2017 Federal Grant Projects – Post June 30 End Dates

Changes to the TRS rate for employees impacted by the lower amount will be accommodated by submitting a final expenditure report. If you have submitted the final expenditure report, please contact Funding and Disbursements to remove the prior final expenditure report. This will allow you to make changes and resubmit an amended expenditure report. Any unexpended funds generated from the lower expenditure report will be rolled forward as carryover into your FY 2018 project. ISBE will not permit budget amendments to your FY 2017 grant projects that ended August 31.

FY 2018 Federal Grant Projects




You may submit a budget amendment to reflect the TRS rate change via your normal process.

Questions about expenditure reports can be directed to ISBE's Funding and Disbursements Division at (217) 782-5256.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities for Physical Education Teachers

Attention physical education teachers, there are a number of professional development opportunities coming up this fall.


- The Illinois Public Health Institute and the Illinois State Board of Education will present the “Enhancing P.E. in Illinois: Updates, Next Steps and a Success Story!” webinar 2-3 p.m. Sept. 19. The target audience is school superintendents, administrators, principals, curriculum staff, and P.E. teachers. One CPDU is available. More information, including a link to registration, is available on the [IPHI website](http://iphionline.org/pdf/PE_webinar_9_14_17.pdf)  (http://iphionline.org/pdf/PE_webinar_9_14_17.pdf).
- “Pump Up P.E.: Promote Health, Learning & Lifelong Fitness,” a full-day training, will be offered in Kankakee on Oct. 4. Six CPDU are available. The training is on implementing enhanced P.E. programming, aligning curricula to the revised State Learning Standards on Physical Development and Health, and administering the state-required fitness tests. [Find out more and register online](http://iphionline.org/pdf/Kankakee_Training_Flyer.pdf)  (http://iphionline.org/pdf/Kankakee_Training_Flyer.pdf).
- “Pump Up P.E.: Promote Health, Learning & Lifelong Fitness” will also be offered Oct. 26 in Springfield. Read the [promotional flier online](http://iphionline.org/pdf/Pump_Up_PE_Flyer_Springfield.pdf)  (http://iphionline.org/pdf/Pump_Up_PE_Flyer_Springfield.pdf).
- IAHPERD (Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance) will hold its annual convention Nov. 16-17 in St. Charles. Visit [IAHPERD online](http://www.iahperd.org/programs/conventions/iahperd-convention) (<http://www.iahperd.org/programs/conventions/iahperd-convention>) for more information.

FEDERAL AND STATE MONITORING

NCLB/ESSA Monitoring Instrument and Title I Comparability


The FY 2018 No Child Left Behind/Every Student Succeeds Act (NCLB/ESSA) Monitoring Instrument is available for completion and submission in IWAS. The due date is Nov. 30, 2017.

All districts receiving NCLB/ESSA funding are required to submit the document every year. As before, the previous year's information will be imported to the document, and the district should ensure its accuracy before submitting. You may be able to see that some questions have been omitted in line with the new ESSA guidance while a new question or two has been added. Each "Comment/Proof Indicator" box will need to have a comment that identifies the documents that support your answers or clarifies your "yes," "no," or "N/A" response. You will not be able to submit the form without providing an answer in each box.

There is a sample list of comments or proof indicators for each question on the Federal and State Monitoring website at <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/proof-indicators.pdf>  (/Documents/proof-indicators.pdf).

The FY 2018 NCLB/ESSA Title I Comparability analysis is also available for completion and submission in the IWAS system.

Districts that are "exempt" will continue to select the "Exempt" radio button and then "Submit." Their submittal requirements will have been met when the superintendent submits it.

An updated "Comparability User's Guide" for FY 2018 is located on the menu bar of the comparability application and on our [Federal and State Monitoring website](#).  (/Documents/comparability_instructions.pdf)

All districts receiving Title I funds must complete the document. Failure to comply will result in frozen program funds and a recovery of expenditures of Title I funds in buildings where they are determined to be non-comparable.





Questions concerning the Title I Comparability or the Monitoring Instrument should be directed to Federal and State Monitoring at (217) 782-7970.

SCHOOL HEALTH ISSUES

2017-18 School Health Update Recorded Webinars Posted Online

All school nurses and others who are responsible for school health compliance and reporting requirements are invited to view the Back to School – School Health Update webinars originally held on Aug. 23, 2017. The webinars provide information from both ISBE and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). Participants may attend the webinars at any time, together or separately. Registration is required before viewing the files.

The recorded presentations include the slide set. The slides are also available separately for printing or saving for future reference. If viewed as a webinar, each session will provide 1.25 Continuing Nurse Education hours for nurses upon verification by the ISBE IT Department and completion of an evaluation. A certificate of attendance (not CPDU but a confirmation of attendance, if needed) is available for non-nursing school staff. The recorded webinars and PowerPoints can be found on ISBE's [School Health Issues webpage](#) (/pages/school-health-issues.aspx), under the "Training Opportunities" tab or with the direct links here:

- [IDPH School Health Update](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/8329599211055041795)  (https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/8329599211055041795)
 - [PowerPoint](#)  (/Documents/IDPH-School-Health-Update.pdf)
- [ISBE School Health Update](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/2171514959056706819)  (https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/2171514959056706819)
 - [PowerPoint](#)  (/Documents/ISBE-School-Health-Update.pdf)

Upcoming 2017 Report Card Data Review and Verification Deadlines

Please note the following deadlines for 2017 Report Card data review and verification. Detailed notifications and instructions have already been provided to districts via IWAS.

Graduation and Dropout Rate Report and Student Mobility Report – Deadline for review and verification: Noon on Sept. 20

In the past, ISBE reported student membership at the serving school and home school for different Report Card data elements. This year we are reporting serving school membership for all of the following Report Card elements in order to enhance consistency: pupil-teacher ratio, student attendance rate, mobility rate, chronic truants rate, class size, average daily enrollment, total enrollment, assessment results, graduation rate, and dropout rate.

To make sure your district has high-quality data on the Illinois Report Card, we ask that you review the Graduation and Dropout Rate Report and the Student Mobility Report on the e-Report Card in IWAS as soon as possible.

Educator Characteristics Summary – Deadline for review and verification: Noon on Sept. 22

Beginning with this year's data, the 2017 teacher attendance rate will be calculated based on the definition from Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-17a)(from Ch. 122, par. 10-17a), not from the Civil Rights Data Collection. It is the percentage of full-time equivalent teachers who were absent fewer than 10 days for reasons other than professional development, leaves taken pursuant to the federal Family Medical Leave Act of 1993, long-term disability, or parental leaves.

The Educator Characteristics Summary is available in IWAS to assist districts with high-quality data for the Illinois Report Card. To view the 2017 Educator Characteristics Summary, please go to the e-Report Card and reference Step 2: Verification and Approval.

Assessment Summary Report – Deadline for review and verification: Noon on Sept. 25

The Assessment Summary Report includes only state test participation rates since the SAT academic performance levels are currently not available. The state tests include PARCC, SAT, and DLM-AA. Please go to the e-Report Card in IWAS to review the summary. The purpose of this summary is to confirm the accuracy of the data that will be used for the 2017 School Report Card, the new accountability system, and federal reports. Please make any necessary corrections through the Student Information System (SIS).

If you have any questions regarding the Assessment Summary Report, please contact ISBE's Assessment and Accountability Division at assessment@isbe.net (mailto:assessment@isbe.net).

If you have any questions about the data review processes, please contact the Report Card Team at reportcard@isbe.net (mailto:reportcard@isbe.net) or (217) 782-3950.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Special Education Data Added to Illinois Report Card

ISBE has been working to expand and improve its Illinois Interactive Report Card to provide greater access to data about Special Education programs in Illinois schools and districts. We have enhanced the 2016 Illinois Report Card to include information about educational environment, disability categories, and demographics. This information was published previously as part of each district's Special Education District Profile. The 2016 Illinois Report Card now includes additional user-friendly displays, graphics, and narrative descriptions.

ISBE will also be incorporating a new section for Special Education data into the 2017 Illinois Report Card, which will be released at the end of October.

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

ISBE Accepting Nominations for U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

ISBE is seeking candidates for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. This program honors high school students based on their outstanding scholarship and promise of future success. ISBE is encouraging principals to nominate students who might not otherwise be nominated through the current SAT/ACT or arts recognition process.

All high school seniors graduating between January and June 2018 who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and who attend public, parochial or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible.

The 2018 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and will receive an expense-paid trip in June to Washington, D.C., where each honoree will be awarded a Presidential Scholars Medallion.

Principals should address the following questions in their nomination letters:

1. What about the student makes him or her stand out as having outstanding scholarship?
2. What special challenges or hurdles has this student overcome while still achieving high academic success?

Please submit nominations to ISBE, Office of Communications, 100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777. Nominations must be postmarked by Oct. 20. For additional information about the program, visit www.ed.gov/psp (<http://www.ed.gov/psp>).

U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career and Technical Education Nominations

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program now honors students on the basis of outstanding scholarship and demonstrated ability and accomplishment in career and technical education (CTE) fields. Therefore, in addition to the general nominations, ISBE is also asking administrators, counselors, and teachers to nominate students from their jurisdiction to be included as candidates for recognition for excellence in CTE. Administrators, counselors, and teachers may nominate up to five CTE students per school for consideration.

All high school seniors who are participants in a CTE program graduating between January and June of 2018 who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents and who attend public, parochial, or independent schools, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible.


The top five nominees from Illinois will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education. All 2018 U.S. Presidential Scholars will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars and will receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a ceremony in their honor in Washington, D.C.

To download and complete the nomination and application forms, please visit <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Career-Technical-Education.aspx> (/Pages/Career-Technical-Education.aspx).

Please submit nominations and applications to Brian Houser, ISBE, College and Career Readiness Division, 100 N. First St., Springfield, IL 62777. Applications must be postmarked by Oct. 20.

For additional information about the program, visit www.ed.gov/psp (<http://www.ed.gov/psp>).

'Non-Curricular Health and Safety Requirements Applicable to Charter Schools' Now Available

An updated version of the "Non-Curricular Health and Safety Requirements Applicable to Charter Schools" is now available on our [website](#)  (/Documents/Non-Curricular_Health_and_Safety_2017.pdf).

For questions, please contact ISBE Charter Schools at charter@isbe.net (mailto:charter@isbe.net).

GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY TRANSPARENCY ACT

Required FY 2018 GATA Grantee Pre-Qualification Process

All grantees must complete the registration process and be qualified to do business with the State of Illinois.

The grantee pre-qualification registration portal may be accessed directly on the [GATA website](#) (<http://www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/default.aspx>).

To be qualified to apply for an FY 2018 grant award, an entity must complete the following four steps:

1. Authentication (New for FY 2018)

The Grantee Portal can be accessed through the Grantee Links heading on the GATA website. A personal or business email address is required to establish an account. Authentication is required through the Illinois.gov authentication portal. It establishes or verifies the relationship between an individual and the organization they represent. Authentication is performed once for each individual associated with a registration. If your email was not previously associated with the organization that you represent, click the "Create a new account" link below the "Sign in" button. After you have entered the required information, you will receive a confirmation email that will instruct you to click a link to complete the account creation process. For help with the Illinois.gov Authentication Portal, please browse to www.illinois.gov/sites/accounts/Pages/default.aspx (<http://www.illinois.gov/sites/accounts/Pages/default.aspx>). Additional instructions may also be found at www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/GranteePortalFAQ.aspx (<http://www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/GranteePortalFAQ.aspx>).

2. Registration

Once your Illinois.gov account is created, you must return to the Grantee Portal log-in screen and enter your user name and password to continue. The system will then ask for your organization's DUNS number. If the DUNS number for your organization is on record with GATA from the previous year, the system will associate you with your organization. The process may require the approval of the primary GATA system registrant for your organization. After accessing your entity's registration information, you must click the "Edit" button found near the top of the screen. This will allow you to correct/confirm the listed information and select the appropriate organization type for your entity.


If the DUNS number that you enter is not found in the GATA system, the system will invite you to create a new grantee account for the entity related to that DUNS number. Please confirm that you entered the correct DUNS number before creating a new account. Creation of a new grantee account is accomplished by providing your organization's:

- DUNS number (View [instructions on obtaining a DUNS number](https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform) (<https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>));
- FEIN;
- Organization type (NOTE: school districts, special education joint agreements, and education for employment consortiums should select "School District");

- Secretary of State ID (NOTE: the following types of organizations have been deemed EXEMPT from this requirement: school districts, colleges, universities, Regional Offices of Education, special education joint agreements, and education for employment consortiums);
- Organization name; and
- Address.

3. Grantee Pre-qualification

All entities must be qualified to do business with the State of Illinois. To be qualified for a grant award, an entity must:

- Be registered in the GATA Grantee Portal system as described above;
- Have a valid DUNS number (View [instructions on obtaining a DUNS number](https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform) (https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform));
- Have a current SAM.gov account (View [instructions on obtaining a SAM Cage Code](http://www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Documents/How%20to%20Register%20in%20SAMS.pdf)  (http://www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Documents/How%20to%20Register%20in%20SAMS.pdf));
- Not be on the Federal Excluded Parties List ([Verify utilizing the Quick Search](https://www.sam.gov/portal/SAM/?portal:componentId=6fd72bdf-176f-4f82-99b2-bfd794cb124f&interactionstate=JBPNS_r00ABXc0ABBfanNmQnJpZGdlVmllld0lkAAAAAQATL2pzZi9mdW5jdGlvbmFsLmpzcA AHX19FT0ZfXw%2a%2a&portal:type=action#1) (https://www.sam.gov/portal/SAM/?portal:componentId=6fd72bdf-176f-4f82-99b2-bfd794cb124f&interactionstate=JBPNS_r00ABXc0ABBfanNmQnJpZGdlVmllld0lkAAAAAQATL2pzZi9mdW5jdGlvbmFsLmpzcA AHX19FT0ZfXw%2a%2a&portal:type=action#1))
- Be in Good Standing with the Illinois Secretary of State, as applicable ([Verify Good Standing](https://www.ilsos.gov/corporatellc/) (https://www.ilsos.gov/corporatellc/)). (NOTE: The following types of organizations have been deemed EXEMPT from this requirement: school districts, colleges, universities, Regional Offices of Education, special education joint agreements, and education for employment consortiums.);
- Not be on the Illinois Stop Payment list; and
- Not be on the Department of Healthcare and Family Services Provider Sanctions list.

Pre-qualification status will be verified after Grantee Registration is submitted and nightly thereafter. If an entity has a pre-qualification issue, the specific issue and remediation support is provided through the Grantee Portal. Entities on the Federal Excluded Parties List are not eligible to do business with the State of Illinois.

4. Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment (ICQ)

Entities must complete an FY 2018 Internal Controls Questionnaire (ICQ) as the Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment. The ICQ is completed annually for each fiscal year. All state agencies will utilize the results of the ICQ. The entity can access the ICQ from the Grantee Portal. The portal provides access to prior year ICQ responses for those entities that received grants in FY 2017. The FY 2018 ICQ template must be completed prior to making application for an FY 2018 grant. The ICQ should be completed by someone with financial or accounting experience.

The status of compliance with each of the requirements described above is displayed in the Grantee Portal for each registered entity. Again, completion of these four steps is required prior to making application for funding for FY 2018.

Entities must also complete a programmatic risk assessment for each grant award in FY 2018. The programmatic risk assessment will be included in each electronic grant application through ISBE. Paper grant applicants will be directed to the IWAS system once applications have been received.

The SAM.gov registration expires annually and must be renewed to maintain your eligibility for funding. Renewal of your cage code at the SAM.gov web site does not require a fee.

The ISBE “GATA Grantee Status Report” provides updated status information for all ISBE grantees and can be found under “Resources” on the left side of the [ISBE GATA website](http://gata.isbe.net) (/gata). Please direct any questions you might have related to the GATA registration and pre-qualification process to GATA@isbe.net (mailto:GATA@isbe.net) or (217) 782-5630.

Educator Resources

- Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) America is offering teacher resources including [Teacher's Toolbox](http://portal.shapeamerica.org/publications/resources/teachingtools/teachertoolbox/Teachers_Toolbox.aspx) (http://portal.shapeamerica.org/publications/resources/teachingtools/teachertoolbox/Teachers_Toolbox.aspx) and the [Download Library](http://portal.shapeamerica.org/publications/resources/downloads-posters-info2.aspx) (<http://portal.shapeamerica.org/publications/resources/downloads-posters-info2.aspx>), which includes posters, curriculum, activity ideas, and more. Please note that some are free and others require an account or membership.
- The U.S. Department of Education has expanded its [Hurricane Help website](https://www.ed.gov/hurricane-help) (<https://www.ed.gov/hurricane-help>) to include information related Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma. The pages include links to the latest information available, as well as specific resources related to education. All sites will be continuously updated as additional information becomes available.

District Recognition

- Teachers, administrators, and school nutrition professionals from Illinois shared the difference Fuel Up to Play 60 makes in their schools during the 2017 Fuel Up to Play 60 Excellence Awards, hosted at the Walter Payton Center in Jackson, Miss. Check out this [video on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xc7sl4-11Ug&t=4s) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xc7sl4-11Ug&t=4s>) posted by the Midwest Dairy Association. Learn more about [Fuel Up to Play 60 online](https://www.midwestdairy.com/schools-and-communities/fuel-up-to-play-60/) (<https://www.midwestdairy.com/schools-and-communities/fuel-up-to-play-60/>).

Upcoming Events

- The University of Missouri Thompson Center for Autism's 12th Annual Autism Conference will be taking place on Sept. 21-22 in Chesterfield, Mo. For more information, visit www.muconf.missouri.edu/autismco*nf/ (<http://www.muconf.missouri.edu/autismco%2anf/>).

Educator Recognition

- Congratulations to Doug Falk of Cuba High School, who received the 2017 Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers Excellence of Teaching award! Mr. Falk was recognized at the Illinois State Fair on Agriculture Day on Aug. 15. District finalists who also competed for the award were Ed Curry, River Ridge High School; Paul Widhalm, Belvidere High School; Betsy Burgener, Central A & M High School; and Julie Bond-Ledford, Nashville High School.
- Congratulations to Dr. Kenneth Wallace, superintendent of Maine Township High School District #207, for being named the [2018 Association of Career and Technical Education Champion of the Year](https://www.acteonline.org/general.aspx?id=12505#.WaWtuU0rldU) (<https://www.acteonline.org/general.aspx?id=12505#.WaWtuU0rldU>)!

Grant Opportunities

- Illinois Computing Educators (ICE) is awarding mini-grants for ICE members of up to \$1,000. Each application must be for one project or activity. The project must meet ICE guidelines and demonstrate innovation and the benefit to students. Apply for an ICE Mini-Grant [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScGWoa3zYmxrcVpDdWEqI4HHmKCvm7pZOEMAeSr8RHc-Nq5qg/viewform) (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScGWoa3zYmxrcVpDdWEqI4HHmKCvm7pZOEMAeSr8RHc-Nq5qg/viewform>).

District Resources

- The University of Illinois at Chicago's Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) is a resource for school health professionals who work with children with special needs and complex medical conditions. DSCC is a statewide program that partners with Illinois families and their local communities to connect children with special healthcare needs to the services and resources they need to reach their full potential. DSCC guides and supports families through their child's journey with a diagnosis and put them at

the center of a seamless support system that improves the quality of their lives. Referrals to the program are simple and can be made at <https://dsccl.uic.edu/for-providers/refer-a-family/> (<https://dsccl.uic.edu/for-providers/refer-a-family/>). To learn more about DSCC and their programs, visit <https://dsccl.uic.edu> (<https://dsccl.uic.edu>), call (800) 322-3722 or email dsccl@uic.edu (<mailto:dsccl@uic.edu>).

ISBE Employment Opportunities

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