

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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September 19, 2017




Hello,

I appreciate the continued opportunities to visit classrooms and schools throughout the state and connect with students, educators, and staff. I began last week with a visit to Sandwich CUSD 430. Everything I experienced during my visit made clear that Sandwich educators and staff are working hard to adapt and expand the district's services to make every student feel supported and engaged. I met students across the district participating in hands-on learning and critical thinking. I enjoyed discussing health and wellness with a Life Skills class at Sandwich Middle School. I learned so much listening to Sandwich High School students in a STEM - Principles of Engineering class explain the proper methods of constructing beams and support systems to withstand various weight limits. I also observed students learning shapes and colors in a newly implemented program, Strategies for Teaching based on Autism Research (STAR), at Lynn G. Haskin

Elementary School. The district has very thoughtfully structured its

autism supports. Thank you, Sandwich students, educators, and staff, for sharing the great learning happening in your schools with me.

ISBE hosted the annual State Board Retreat last Wednesday and Thursday. The retreat provided an opportunity for the Board to think more deeply and reconnect to the purpose – the “why?” – of our work. Over two days, we examined what we as ISBE are trying to accomplish in terms of taking care of districts and supporting students and communities. The Board considered feedback about making ISBE's vision and mission more inclusive and then modified the language to reflect ISBE's commitment to our Whole Child, Whole School, Whole Community approach. Find the updated vision and [mission statements online](#)  (/Documents/mission_statement.pdf) and below:


- Vision: Illinois is a state of whole, healthy children nested in whole, healthy systems supporting communities wherein all people are socially and economically secure.
- Mission: Provide leadership and resources to achieve excellence across all Illinois districts by engaging legislators, school administrators, teachers, students, parents, families, and other stakeholders in formulating and advocating for policies that enhance education, empower districts, and ensure equitable outcomes for all students.

During the retreat, the Board also initiated a year of inquiry regarding the teaching profession in the state. We need an excellent teacher in every classroom if we are going to achieve our vision, mission, and goals. There were more than 1,000 unfilled teaching positions across Illinois as of October 2016. In our small school districts – and the majority or approximately 67 percent of school districts in Illinois have 100 or fewer faculty members – even one unfilled teaching

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position severely limits students' learning opportunities. The teacher shortage is most pronounced in hard-to-staff subjects, such as special education and bilingual education. The State Board is committed to advancing strategies to recruit, retain, and take better care of teachers.

The State Board's focused year of study will include inquiry into the teacher pipeline, teacher preparation, licensure, recruitment, hiring, development, and retention. Our commitment to equity and our Board goals insists that all students in Illinois have access to highly prepared and effective teachers. Chief Education Officer Libi Gil, Ph.D., and Deputy Superintendent for Teaching & Learning Jason Helfer, Ph.D., gave a presentation to the Board about teacher shortage issues and actions. I encourage you to take a look, beginning on page 406 of the [Board packet](#)  (/Documents_Board_Meetings/2017091314-Packet.pdf).

One promising project ISBE is working on explores how we collect and analyze data to inform teacher preparation programs. ISBE, in conjunction with the Partnership for Educator Preparation (PEP) Steering Committee, is implementing a two-year pilot to strengthen data collection, sharing, and reporting practices across all teacher preparation programs in Illinois. The PEP Steering Committee is composed of voices from higher education, K-12 teachers, district hiring managers, and other state organizations. The goals of the PEP work are to ensure all teachers in Illinois are ready to support student learning upon entering the classroom and to empower preparation programs with the ability to use data as a tool for continuous improvement. Illinois was one of six states recognized by The New Teacher Project (TNTP) for its work in creating a teacher preparation data system. [Learn more about PEP](#) (/Pages/Partnership-for-Educator-Preparation.aspx).

Many other questions about the driving forces and complexities of the teacher shortage remain, including why teachers prepared in Illinois may leave for other states, and if there is a gap between the number of teachers of color qualified to teach and the number of teachers of color hired. We want to know what supports we are providing to teachers and what meaningful opportunities they have for professional learning, mentoring, leadership, and autonomy. There are no simple answers to these questions. Addressing the teacher shortage and changing the narrative about teaching in our state is a collective activity; it requires dialogue and active collaboration. We look forward as we enter this year of study to engaging interested district leaders representing diverse districts and regions of the state.

Last Friday was Beth Purvis' last day in the Governor's Office as the Illinois secretary of education. She has been an extraordinary ally in advancing education policy and I believe her service to Illinois made a real difference. Beth is both thoughtful and fierce in her efforts to improve educational opportunity and outcomes for all students. Her leadership and diplomacy resulted in lasting positive change for students and families in Illinois. I am grateful for Beth's constant reframing of obstacles into opportunities and her capacity to stay engaged in the hardest conversations. I deeply appreciate the work she did and the work we did together. Please join me in thanking Beth and wishing her and her family a joyful next chapter.

Tony

UPCOMING ISBE DATES AND DEADLINES

Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings, and deadlines. For more events and details, visit the [ISBE Meetings page](#) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/ISBE-Meetings.aspx>) or call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663.


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>)



Oct. 1: [Deadline to submit Undesignated Epinephrine Policy](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30UeQdMjbpkpAruyvMB9mfN9UOUVLUBHQVNIRExGVkoxVEFKSINaMFM0Ni4u)
(<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30UeQdMjbpkpAruyvMB9mfN9UOUVLUBHQVNIRExGVkoxVEFKSINaMFM0Ni4u>)

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 Lindsey Jensen



Lindsey Jensen came into the teaching profession via an indirect route. She took a job as a teacher's aide in a junior high behavioral disorder classroom. Part of the reason the students were not in a "regular" classroom was their inability to communicate and socialize appropriately with their classmates. Lindsey says that she heard a few expletives that she had never heard before. She realized by the end of the first day that although this job was certainly "no walk in the park," she loved it.

This experience became the catalyst for her falling in love with the teaching environment. She decided to pursue a degree in speech communication. Lindsey graduated from college with high honors in 2005 and immediately enrolled in a master's program and earned a Master of Arts in Teaching. She has worked in a variety of educational settings. She was hired 10 years ago as an 11th- and 12th-grade English teacher at Dwight Township High School in Dwight Public School District 230.

Lindsey is concerned not only about her students' academic success; she lets her students know that she cares about their emotional and social well-being. Students relate to her bubbly personality, her warmth, and her enthusiasm for teaching and learning. One her students said that "Mrs. Jensen constantly radiates positivity. Her happiness is infectious." Lindsey never gives up on a student and she will do anything she can to help students with schoolwork and personal issues. She is a teacher, a confidante, a mentor, and a role model. Students and staff

alike look up to her and value her opinions, her thoughts, and her teaching.

Lindsey's boundless enthusiasm for learning -- she is currently finishing work on a doctorate degree -- is evident in the work she and a colleague have been doing to redesign the 9-12 English curriculum. Her colleague says that "... Lindsey is so motivated to collaborate in producing a rigorous, well-aligned, skill-based, scaffolded curriculum that fosters practical student learning. She thrives on collaboration and, despite her confidence, has no ego."

She inspires colleagues and students alike. Lindsey uses a variety of strategies to meet the varying needs of her students and she makes learning fun. She is flexible in her lessons to ensure that students really get it rather than just moving on because she has to meet a deadline. Lindsey gets excited about whatever she is teaching and that excitement transfers to her students. She is committed to building relationships with her students.

Lindsey builds relationships with her students and inspires all those around her by being involved with extracurricular activities like advising the Drama Club, coaching cheerleading, directing the spring musical, and coordinating the polar plunge team, to name a few. Lindsey is most proud of her ability to capitalize on her role as DTHS Student Council adviser to influence student involvement in Special Olympics.

Lindsey is almost done with her doctoral work, but she says she doesn't intend to leave her classroom. She said she promised herself she would use what she learned while working on her doctorate to help her become a better teacher and she believes the experience has done just that. The school's principal sums it up with these words, "In my 30 years as an educator, I have never met a teacher who has matched the levels of enthusiasm and professionalism that Lindsey brings with her every day."

Lindsey 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.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

2017 Scaling Up Your Preschool LRE Plan: Next Steps

ISBE, Early CHOICES, and Illinois STARNET have collaborated to offer regional meetings that will provide a forum to meet with other districts, learn about various models to implement LRE, and hear from district representatives that have taken steps to implement the LRE plans they developed in 2016-17. Participants will have an opportunity to revise and enhance LRE plans to increase inclusive options for children ages 3-5 in their district. Registration for these meetings is now open at the STARNET regional websites and through the links below:

- [Register for September 25, 12 - 3 p.m. Region II – Elk Grove Village](http://www.thecenterweb.org/starnet/workshops.html#LRE) (<http://www.thecenterweb.org/starnet/workshops.html#LRE>)
- [Register for September 26, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Regions VI – Tinley Park](http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=mh9qlrqab&oeidk=a07eei5pw6sf0d21392) (<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=mh9qlrqab&oeidk=a07eei5pw6sf0d21392>)
- [Register for October 2, 12 - 3 p.m. Region I & III – Springfield](http://starnet.org/home/events/scaling-up-your-preschool-lre-plan-next-steps/) (<http://starnet.org/home/events/scaling-up-your-preschool-lre-plan-next-steps/>)
- [Register for October 3, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Region IV – Belleville](http://roe.stclair.k12.il.us/starnet/content.php?q=2011-2012&PHPSESSID=efaef2020fbb93d37e7ee4768b522e0c) (<http://roe.stclair.k12.il.us/starnet/content.php?q=2011-2012&PHPSESSID=efaef2020fbb93d37e7ee4768b522e0c>)

Upcoming Conference and Professional Development

The Sharing A Vision conference, coordinated by the Illinois Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children in collaboration with the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Human Services, will take place Oct. 25-27 in East Peoria. It is open to both professionals and families and is designed to improve policies and practices for young children. Several full and half-day **Preconference sessions** are being offered on Wednesday, Oct. 25, including:

- Opening the Culture Door: Understanding the Impact Your Culture has on Your Teaching Style and Expectations of Children's Behavior
- Maximizing the Danielson Framework for Teacher Evaluation in Early Childhood Classrooms: New Tools and Early Childhood Video Resources to Promote Effective Teacher and Leader Collaboration
- Working with Families: Refresh Your Knowledge of IDEA and How to Work with Families of Children with Disabilities
- Powerful Interactions: How to Connect with Children to Extend Their Learning
- Lead Learn Excel Leader Learning Exchange
- Implicit Bias: The Thief of Progress
- Whose Team Are You On? Positive Teaming and Collaboration in Early Intervention

The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites and Conference Center in East Peoria and will host more than 70 sessions in alignment with Division for Early Childhood Recommended Practices. To register, please visit www.sharingavision.org (<http://www.sharingavision.org>).

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 Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) 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

Pump Up P.E.: Promote Health, Learning & Lifelong Fitness - Professional Development

This 6.5-hour training, offered at two locations this fall, trains P.E. teachers and administrators on the following Illinois' P.E. requirements: implementing enhanced P.E. programming, aligning curricula to the revised State Learning Standards on Physical Development and Health, and administering the Illinois-required fitness tests. Six CPDUs are available. [Read more about Pump Up P.E..](#)


(http://iphionline.org/pump_up_pe/)

Northern Illinois

Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2017

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: I-KAN Regional Instruction Center, 50 W. Industrial Park Dr., Kankakee, 60901

[Register for the Pump Up P.E. training in Northern Illinois here](https://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0044-0016-3d722608b0bc4d14bc5c3ca253a1179e) (https://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0044-0016-3d722608b0bc4d14bc5c3ca253a1179e) – registration fee applies. [Download the promotional flier](#)  (http://iphionline.org/pdf/Kankakee_Training_Flyer.pdf).

Central Illinois

Date: Thursday, October 26, 2017

Time: 8:30 a.m. -3:00 p.m.

Location: IEA Professional Development Center, 3440 Liberty Dr., Springfield, IL 62704


[Register for the Pump Up P.E. training in Central Illinois here](http://iphionline.org/register_pump_11_15_springfield/) (http://iphionline.org/register_pump_11_15_springfield/) - registration fee applies. [Download the promotional flier](#)  (http://iphionline.org/pdf/Pump_Up_PE_Flyer_Springfield.pdf).

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](#)  (/Documents/proof-indicators.pdf) for each question on the Federal and State Monitoring website.

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)

DATA ANALYSIS

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.

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) (<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_r00ABXc0ABBfanNmQnJpZGdVmlld0lkAAAAAQATL2pzZi9mdW5jdGlvbmFsLmpzcAAHX19FT0ZfXw%2a%2a&portal:type=action#1) (https://www.sam.gov/portal/SAM/?portal:componentId=6fd72bdf-176f-4f82-99b2-bfd794cb124f&interactionstate=JBPNS_r00ABXc0ABBfanNmQnJpZGdVmlld0lkAAAAAQATL2pzZi9mdW5jdGlvbmFsLmpzcAAHX19FT0ZfXw%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.

IN BRIEF

Funding Opportunities

- Funding opportunities for **Fuel Up to Play 60** are available to K-12 schools enrolled in the program. The competitive, nationwide funding program is designed to support schools that implement Plays from the 2017-18 edition of the Fuel Up to Play 60 Playbook. Whether you’re just starting out with Fuel Up to Play 60 or looking to expand and extend an initiative that’s already in motion, funding opportunities from Fuel Up to Play 60 can help. Funds are awarded based on the quality of the application and the suitability of the

specific request. To apply for funding, visit [Fuel Up to Play 60](https://www.fueluptoplay60.com/funding/general-information) (https://www.fueluptoplay60.com/funding/general-information). The deadline to apply is Nov. 1.

Upcoming Events

- **The Center for Tax and Budget Accountability** is holding its 2017 Annual Fiscal Symposium on Oct. 10. The title of this year's symposium is "The Politics of Revenue: The Future of Education in Illinois" and will honor Terry Mazany, president and CEO of the Chicago Community Trust, for the work he has done to advance the cause of public education. For more information and to register, please visit [CTBA's webpage](http://www.ctbaonline.org/updates-events/events/ctba-annual-fiscal-symposium) (http://www.ctbaonline.org/updates-events/events/ctba-annual-fiscal-symposium).
- **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 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 Lake Forest, IL. 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/).

Student Opportunities

- Applications for the **2018 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards** are available online for students in grades 5-12 who have made meaningful contributions to their communities through volunteer service within the past 12 months. The application is available at <http://spirit.prudential.com> (http://spirit.prudential.com) and www.nassp.org/spirit (http://www.nassp.org/spirit). The application deadline is Nov. 7. The awards are sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

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#.WaWtuU0ridU) (https://www.acteonline.org/general.aspx?id=12505#.WaWtuU0ridU)!

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](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://dsc. uic.edu/for-providers/refer-a-family/> (<https://dsc. uic.edu/for-providers/refer-a-family/>). To learn more about DSCC and their programs, visit <https://dsc. uic.edu> (<https://dsc. uic.edu>), call (800) 322-3722 or email dsc. uic.edu (<mailto:dsc. 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>).