

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

 Printable PDF

September 26, 2017



Hello,

As the Mattoon High School community heals, I want to express my deep appreciation for the response of school staff and first responders. They took great care in a tough situation to protect students and staff. My thoughts are with the injured student and the student's family, the family of the suspect, and all those affected by this tragedy. Please hold the entire community in your thoughts and prayers.

I had more opportunities to meet students and educators last week. I enjoyed learning about some of the community-focused initiatives across Clinton CUSD 15, including the high school's commitment to restorative practices and strong early elementary outreach in pre-K. In Lincoln ESD 27, I observed educators' and students' seamless use of technology as a support to learning. Google

named Lincoln ESD 27 a Reference District, one of a handful of

districts in Illinois selected as an exemplar of how to integrate Google

technology into instruction. A highlight of my visit to Robertson Charter School in Decatur SD 61 was watching students assist their peers and mentor younger students. The school's level of engagement, focus, and excitement energized me.

I also visited Morton District 709, where I joined a Project Lead the Way classroom at Morton High School and the CareerMaker STEM lab at Morton Junior High School. Real-world problems form the basis for all of the lessons in the Project Lead the Way class. I watched students tackle how to clean up an oil slick, generate solutions using the resources they were given, and present proposals to their teacher. The CareerMaker STEM lab is a public and private partnership between businesses and the school district. Students engage in digital and hands-on activities in various career clusters, including technology; architecture and construction; and government, law, and public service. Students gain valuable insight as they explore different career clusters to help them identify possible careers to pursue.

These schools show the powerful opportunity we have to make school more relevant to students, and high school, in particular, more relevant to the community. Competency-based learning can help link high school to the workforce and reshape the high school experience for students. Educators assess and advance students in competency-based learning based on demonstrated mastery of specific skills, abilities, and knowledge. ISBE launched the [Competency-Based High School Graduation Requirements Pilot Program](#) (/Pages/CompetencyPilot.aspx) to spur innovation in the way high schools prepare students for meaningful careers. The [Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act](#) (<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/99/099-0674.htm>) established the pilot program in 2016. Last week, the 10 school districts selected to participate in the first cohort of the pilot program convened to build relationships, find points of connection, and begin moving their pilots from vision to action.

Quick Links

- [Those Who Excel Every Student Succeeds Act](#)
- [Data Analysis](#)
- [Assessment and Accountability](#)
- [Climate and Culture](#)
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- [Transparency Act In Brief](#)

Peoria School District 150, a member of the competency-based education pilot, is pushing the bounds of the high school experience in a number of ways. A group of students in Peoria School District 150 is supporting local companies through the student-run entrepreneurship program, [AppsCo](http://appsco.org/) (<http://appsco.org/>). Students help local businesses build their brands, engage customers, and increase sales through mobile app development, search engine optimization, and internet marketing. AppsCo raises funds for the school district while providing students with business education and mentorship from local business leaders.

The whole child, whole school, whole community approach encourages a different way of thinking about the opportunities offered in school. Student-centered school design explores community partnerships and integrates technology, so every child receives differentiated supports to pursue interests in authentic environments. Truly investing in the future of the state – our students – means continuing to connect the classroom to students' interests and to real-world problems.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the [students selected for the 2017-18 Student Advisory Council \(SAC\)](#) ([/Lists/News/NewsDisplay.aspx?ID=1175](#)). SAC members learn about education issues in Illinois, provide feedback to the State Board, select a topic to research in depth, and present to the State Board. This year's SAC members are thinking about postsecondary options and how to ensure students have the knowledge, skills, and attitudes they need to thrive in the path of their choosing after graduation. The SAC plans to explore affordability, accessibility, vocational programs, the armed forces, and pathways straight to the workforce.



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. 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=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. 12: [2018-19 PSAT Reimbursement Webinar](https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/8852634693159833347)

(https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/8852634693159833347)

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. 18: [Deadline to submit Annual District Assessment Survey](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/AssessmentSurvey.aspx)

(https://www.isbe.net/Pages/AssessmentSurvey.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 Erin Miller



Erin Miller teaches fourth grade at Brimfield Grade School in Brimfield Community Unit School District 309. Her kindergarten teacher first ignited Erin's interest in becoming a teacher, but it was her fourth-grade teacher who fanned the embers into a full flame that burned brightly throughout Erin's school years.

Today Erin holds two master's degrees and is in her 20th year of teaching. Her passion for teaching grows brighter and stronger with each passing year. Her ability to engage students at all learning levels coupled with her enthusiasm for teaching and learning makes her an excellent role model to her fellow teachers and her students.

Erin is also an excellent mentor to new teachers and a strong teacher leader for her colleagues. In her nomination letter, Erin's principal wrote, "She demonstrates an authentic passion for teaching and an untiring commitment to student success and well-being. If I want something done correctly, I ask Erin."

Erin gives it 110 percent whether it is teaching, mentoring, serving on seemingly countless committees, or creating lessons that motivate and challenge students. She makes learning fun and exciting. Students are actively engaged in their learning. Erin's students gain skills that will help them continue to be successful learners for the rest of their school years and beyond. One of Erin's colleagues described her this way: "She is a role model and the impact she has on her students goes beyond the classroom. Erin teaches her students how to be positive citizens of the world."

When Erin was in fourth grade, her teacher recognized that she was struggling to learn so she began working more closely with Erin to help her succeed. Erin draws on that experience to help her students when they are having trouble. She develops strong relationships with all her students and parents. A former student shared this story about Erin's teaching: "When I was in fourth grade, I was really struggling with multiplication. Mrs. Miller brought me to the back table every study hall and helped me learn multiplication. She did such a great job with making up fun jingles and the turtlehead method to help me remember multiplication, until I was able to help other kids that were struggling like me. She could always make school fun!"

Erin believes her success in teaching comes from the relationships she builds around what she calls her "teaching table." She compares her teaching table to a family dining room table. The table can always be extended to include all her students and everyone else in their educational family. It expands to exchange ideas and share information with her colleagues. As she says, "Special moments together happen at this invisible table. It is where we laugh and cry. It is where my children grow. It is where lessons are learned and life decisions are made. It is an accepting and safe place where my school family gathers."


Erin 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.

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

Site-Based Expenditure Reporting

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires all states to begin school-level expenditure reporting. All Local Education Agencies (LEAs) will report per-pupil expenditure data at the district level and at the school level, disaggregated by source of funds, beginning with school year 2018-19 data. ISBE recognizes that these new requirements and the timeline for implementation will present challenges for different LEAs and schools.

ISBE has convened a Site-Level Financial Reporting Advisory Group in order to ensure that the challenges faced by individual LEAs and schools (including charter public schools) are appropriately considered in the transition process. This advisory group, along with ISBE and facilitators, is building a multi-year implementation plan, guidance, and training to support schools and LEAs in the transition to school-level financial reporting.

Please see the [letter sent to districts](#)  (/Documents/Financial-Reporting-Requirements-Letter.pdf) for additional information, including a full list of the advisory group members. Additional information will continue to be added to [ISBE's ESSA webpage](#) (/Pages/ESSA.aspx) as it becomes available. For questions, please contact Sara R. Shaw at the ISBE Division of Finance at (217) 782-0249 or sshaw@isbe.net (mailto:sshaw@isbe.net).

DATA ANALYSIS

Annual District Assessment Survey Now Open

The [Annual District Assessment survey](/Pages/AssessmentSurvey.aspx) (/Pages/AssessmentSurvey.aspx) requires all districts to report to ISBE information regarding the assessments they administer in their schools. This is the second administration of the survey. The legislation requiring this survey, [PA 99-590](#) (<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=010500050K22-82>), was signed into law on July 22, 2016.

ISBE has made several changes to the survey that will improve the data quality and usability of the data collected, as well as improve the ease of use in order to reduce the burden on school districts. Changes to the survey include:

- A menu that will automatically pull up district name and RCDT as you begin typing it.
- The ability to select and enter data for more than one school at a time if the exact same assessments are given the same way (at the same time, to the same students, for the same purposes).
- The survey will pull the assessment data submitted for a school from the previous year for you to update as needed. Please review the information carefully.
- Changes to the "Assessment Purpose" section to ensure all purposes for which assessment results are used can be indicated. Note: The "Assessment Purpose" question was changed so significantly, so this information will need to be updated for all assessments .

The survey must be completed by noon on Tuesday , October 18 . If you have specific questions regarding the survey, please contact Data Analysis at (217) 782-3950.

ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2017-18 PSAT Reimbursement for Grades 9 & 10 Webinar Registration Available

The 2017-18 PSAT Reimbursement for Grades 9 and 10 webinar will be offered twice. The webinar will take place from 9-10 a.m. and 3-4 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 12. This live webinar will provide information on how schools and districts can take advantage of the opportunity to offer PSAT at grades 9 and 10 to their students. It will include information on eligibility, placing orders, the reimbursement process, as well as opportunities for face-to-face training by the College Board. Questions will be answered and the session will be recorded for future reference. [Registration now available](https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/8852634693159833347) (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/8852634693159833347>).

Please contact ISBE's Division of Assessment and Accountability at assessment@isbe.net (mailto:assessment@isbe.net) if you have questions.

CLIMATE AND CULTURE

Climate and Culture Network Professional Learning

Educators and administrators interested in focusing professional learning on the topic of climate and culture might want to consider participating in this exciting opportunity in support of positive climate and culture for Illinois educators, schools, and districts. A yearlong journey sponsored by the ISBE Content Specialists from the Center for Educational Initiatives will include a blended approach of online collaboration and face-to-face meetings for participants through the spring of 2018 to support the importance of ongoing, job-embedded professional learning. Space will be limited for the classroom teacher option. An administrator option is available without cost.

View [registration and details regarding the content](https://casei365-my.sharepoint.com/personal/kmcclure_casei365_onmicrosoft_com/_layouts/15/guestaccess.aspx?docid=09ebf565687db45e5845b902e3b9c1e95&authkey=AcQGf9ZbckofBGb_DHEG2RM&expiration=2017-12-15T06:00:00.000Z) ([https://casei365-](https://casei365-my.sharepoint.com/personal/kmcclure_casei365_onmicrosoft_com/_layouts/15/guestaccess.aspx?docid=09ebf565687db45e5845b902e3b9c1e95&authkey=AcQGf9ZbckofBGb_DHEG2RM&expiration=2017-12-15T06:00:00.000Z)

[my.sharepoint.com/personal/kmcclure_casei365_onmicrosoft_com/_layouts/15/guestaccess.aspx?](https://casei365-my.sharepoint.com/personal/kmcclure_casei365_onmicrosoft_com/_layouts/15/guestaccess.aspx?docid=09ebf565687db45e5845b902e3b9c1e95&authkey=AcQGf9ZbckofBGb_DHEG2RM&expiration=2017-12-15T06:00:00.000Z)

[docid=09ebf565687db45e5845b902e3b9c1e95&authkey=AcQGf9ZbckofBGb_DHEG2RM&expiration=2017-12-15T06:00:00.000Z](https://casei365-my.sharepoint.com/personal/kmcclure_casei365_onmicrosoft_com/_layouts/15/guestaccess.aspx?docid=09ebf565687db45e5845b902e3b9c1e95&authkey=AcQGf9ZbckofBGb_DHEG2RM&expiration=2017-12-15T06:00:00.000Z)). The

[yearlong schedule](https://casei365-my.sharepoint.com/personal/kmcclure_casei365_onmicrosoft_com/_layouts/15/guestaccess.aspx?docid=013f0bdc80cc044b5bace0edee4ec139b&authkey=AUPs9o_jyupFlrZWHEoF5i4&expiration=2017-12-15T06:00:00.000Z) (https://casei365-my.sharepoint.com/personal/kmcclure_casei365_onmicrosoft_com/_layouts/15/guestaccess.aspx?docid=013f0bdc80cc044b5bace0edee4ec139b&authkey=AUPs9o_jyupFlrZWHEoF5i4&expiration=2017-12-15T06:00:00.000Z) is also available now.

Please visit the [Illinois Classrooms in Action webpage](http://www.ilclassroomsinaction.org/instructional-supports.html) (<http://www.ilclassroomsinaction.org/instructional-supports.html>) for additional climate and culture resources.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Updated Illinois Early Learning Project Website Now Available

The [Illinois Early Learning Project](https://illinoisearlylearning.org/) (<https://illinoisearlylearning.org/>) (IEL) has updated its website to make content more accessible to teachers, families, caregivers, and administrators. The website has added more photos and direct navigation to the most popular resources from the homepage. The website content is available in English and Spanish. The IEL Project is a free resource for teachers, families, and caregivers of young children ages birth through kindergarten.

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 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>).

NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Team Up for Food Safety' Webinar Scheduled for Sept. 28

The Institute of Child Nutrition will present a “Team Up for Food Safety” webinar set for 2-3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28. The training targets child nutrition professionals working in school nutrition and child care settings.

September is National Food Safety Education Month. This year’s theme focuses on building a culture of food safety. Participants will learn about best practices in food safety and the abundance of free training and resources offered by the Institute of Child Nutrition and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service’s Office of Food Safety. [Sign up online](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4540099400748299523) (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4540099400748299523>).

Participants who register will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. There will be a recording of the webinar available on the ICN website at www.theicn.org/teamup (<http://www.theicn.org/teamup>) for those unable to attend.

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/) (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)  (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)  (http://iphionline.org/pdf/Pump_Up_PE_Flyer_Springfield.pdf).

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.

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_r00ABXc0ABBfanNmQnJpZGdIVmld0lAAAAAQATL2pzZi9mdW5jdGlVbmFsLmpzcAAHX19FT0ZfXw%2a%2a&portal:type=action#1) (https://www.sam.gov/portal/SAM/?portal:componentId=6fd72bdf-176f-4f82-99b2-bfd794cb124f&interactionstate=JBPNs_r00ABXc0ABBfanNmQnJpZGdIVmld0lAAAAAQATL2pzZi9mdW5jdGlVbmFsLmpzcAAHX19FT0ZfXw%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 IW AS 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://www.isbe.net/gata) (/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

Administrator Recognition

- Congratulations to Dr. Blondean Davis, superintendent of Matteson School District 162 and CEO of Southland College Prep Charter High School, who has been named a finalist in the superintendent category for the 2018 Women in School Leadership Award by [AASA](http://www.aasa.org/WomensLeadership.aspx) (<http://www.aasa.org/WomensLeadership.aspx>)!

Upcoming Events

- The Illinois Reading Council is holding the 50th annual Illinois Reading Council Conference Oct. 5-7 in Peoria. The conference will feature many well-known authors, nationally recognized reading professionals, and outstanding Illinois educators who will be presenting more than 350 breakout sessions to inspire reading and writing at all levels. [Registration for the conference](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/conference/conferenceinformation.html) (<http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org/conference/conferenceinformation.html>)! For more information, visit www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org (<http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org>) or call (888) 454-1341.
- 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>).

Recognition Opportunity

- The nomination deadline for the [Foodservice Achievement Management Excellence Awards](http://schoolnutrition.org/news-publications/news/2017/do-you-know-anyone-deserving-of-a-fame-award/) (<http://schoolnutrition.org/news-publications/news/2017/do-you-know-anyone-deserving-of-a-fame-award/>) is Oct. 3. The FAME Awards ceremony will be held during the School Nutrition Association's School Nutrition Industry Conference in New Orleans on Jan. 21.

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.

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.

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>).

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>).