

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

 [Printable PDF](#)

October 3, 2017



Hello,

So many of us have been touched by this horrific violence in Las Vegas earlier this week. We need to keep those affected in our thoughts and work to support anyone around us who is suffering. We have assembled some resources in the [Climate and Culture section below](#).

Building a caring school environment where all students feel a sense of support and belonging is essential to a great school. I would like to congratulate the [16 Illinois public elementary, middle, and high schools](#) (/Lists/News/NewsDisplay.aspx?ID=1177) named 2017 National Blue Ribbon Schools. The award recognizes innovative leadership and the hard work of school communities to create safe and welcoming learning environments that support, engage, and challenge students.

The deep care and commitment of the leaders, educators, staff, students, and families of our 2017

National Blue Ribbon Schools inspire me. All of the Illinois public

schools that were honored received the “Exemplary High Performing

Schools” designation. [View photographs and brief descriptions of the 2017 National Blue Ribbon Schools](#) (<https://www2.ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/index.html>).

It was great to connect with superintendents last week at the Illinois Association of School Administrators’ Annual Conference. I appreciate their thoughtfulness and readiness to engage in our evidence-based funding and ESSA work. Dr. Joe Sanfelippo, superintendent of Fall Creek School District in Fall Creek, Wisconsin, gave a powerful keynote titled “Who is Telling Your Story?” His energy and excitement shows that telling our stories as educators can empower us to continue sharing the positive things Illinois students are doing every day. Celebrating success and the unbelievable work happening in our schools can help us learn from each other, build a positive culture, and encourage greater community investment in our schools. I see visiting schools and districts, learning from and engaging in dialogue with educators and students, and sharing their real stories as essential to my work as State Superintendent.

I also participated in a Tele Town Hall with the Illinois Education Association on ESSA. I greatly value our partnership with IEA and enjoyed the opportunity to speak with and hear feedback from members. They posed thoughtful questions about student health and wellness and expressed that supporting effective curriculum and instruction and addressing climate and culture are critical to improving schools. Teachers across Illinois conveyed their values and thinking in the development of the Illinois ESSA Plan. The next generation of our statewide system of support and accountability is rooted in educators’ feedback that we need to customize school improvement to support local needs. ISBE will continue to rely on the active voice of educators to strengthen the Illinois ESSA Plan. We are committed to transparency and to responding to your needs as educators. I encourage you to keep sharing both your ideas and concerns in the process as we transition over the next school year.

Quick Links

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October is National Principals Month! I would like to share my deep appreciation for the leadership and dedication of our Illinois principals. Your work as school leaders with families and teachers to understand each child's unique strengths and challenges ensures that all students receive the support they need to succeed. Thank you for creating the conditions for teachers and students to thrive and Illinois communities to grow. I encourage you to watch and pass along this [thank you video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDdOzclS7Uk) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDdOzclS7Uk) made in partnership with the Illinois Principals Association. Celebrate National Principals Month with [resources from IPA](https://ilprincipals.org/about/principal-appreciation/) (https://ilprincipals.org/about/principal-appreciation/) and [tools from the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the American Federation of School Administrators](https://www.principalsmonth.org/) (https://www.principalsmonth.org/). Show appreciation for your principals on social media with #ThankAPrincipal.

We have work in front of us to make our systems better organized to serve kids. I am grateful for the hard work of Illinois educators and school and district leaders, and I know that we will see more progress as we continue to collaborate and tell positive stories.

Finally, ISBE has added explanatory resources to the [Evidence-Based Funding webpage](/Pages/EvidenceBasedFunding.aspx) (/Pages/EvidenceBasedFunding.aspx), including an FAQ, an overview presentation, and a more technical distribution guide. Please send any additional questions to EBFhelp@isbe.net (mailto:EBFhelp@isbe.net). We will post a series of prerecorded webinars diving deeper into EBF in the near future. We anticipate having final EBF calculations and districts receiving their first full EBF payments in early to mid-winter.

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.

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. 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. 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)

THOSE WHO EXCEL

Meet Teacher of the Year Finalist Jamie Nash-Mayberry



Jamie Nash-Mayberry has been teaching social studies at Shawnee High School in Shawnee Community Unit School District 84 for eight years. She was inspired to become a teacher because of the wonderful teachers she had as a student. She also credits her varied experiences as a college student for helping develop into the teacher she has become.

Jamie worked for the Union County Sheriff's Office while she was a student at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. She realized that many criminals came from a long line of family members who had also been in trouble with the law. That lesson taught Jamie that she would have to work really hard to show students that they truly had options in life. She was also a student worker for the vice chancellor for Student Affairs. Here she gained a better understanding of what students need in order to succeed at the university level. Jamie also volunteered to work with individuals with disabilities and that experience helped her develop greater compassion and patience.

The combination of these "life lessons" has helped Jamie hone her teaching skills. "Mrs. Nash-Mayberry is an extraordinary teacher, respected leader among her colleagues, and a kind and generous human being dedicated to student success," is how District Superintendent Shelly Clover-Hill describes Jamie.

Jamie wears many hats and her impact on her students and the community is visible in numerous ways. She helped the school earn the Democracy School designation. Shawnee High School is one of three high schools in the southern portion of the state to receive this recognition. Jamie created a veterans memorial wall at the high school to honor veterans in surrounding communities.

She has raised student and community awareness regarding the vulnerability of levees in the area and created a place-based education lesson for her students. Her efforts have helped the project grow exponentially. The project, now in its seventh year, has helped students become aware of the importance of civic responsibility. Some of Jamie's students partnered with SIU-C students to make a seven-minute video, "Save the Levees, Save the Future." Her students work with government officials and politicians to raise awareness of the need to maintain and improve the levees that protect the area from the Mississippi River. Under Jamie's guidance, students have written letters, given presentations to state and federal lawmakers, spoken in hearings with the Army Corps of Engineers, and developed, as Jamie puts it, "a sense of their own agency."

One of Jamie's colleagues writes that "because she excels in her teaching, Jamie's affording her students the opportunity to excel outside of school and in club activities that they may be involved with."

Jamie makes it a point to teach across curriculums. She ties her lessons in with other subjects to provide students with a well-rounded education. Jamie also makes lessons fun and interesting. She creates projects that include student involvement. Rather than lecture students or have them memorize a lot of information, Jamie makes sure they are active participants in their education. A parent who is a former teacher shared these thoughts about the impact Jamie had on her son and daughter, "Mrs. Nash-Mayberry challenged them to do the best they could do, to believe in themselves, and pursue whatever dreams they may have."

Jamie 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 Oct. 28.

DATA ANALYSIS

Annual District Assessment Survey Deadline Approaching - Oct. 18

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. The survey must be completed by **noon on Tuesday, Oct. 18**. 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) (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 significantly, so **this information will need to be updated for all assessments**.

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

2017-18 Unfilled Positions Survey Now Available in IWAS

The 2017-18 Unfilled Positions Survey is now available in IWAS for data entry. The deadline for completing the survey and submitting it to ISBE is **Nov. 9**. Districts are to report the number of budgeted positions they were unable to fill as of Oct. 1, 2017. All districts that hire staff are required to complete the survey, **even districts that did not have any unfilled positions**.

To avoid duplicating unfilled positions reported by public school districts, other reporting entities (e.g., special education cooperatives) should only report their unfilled employee positions.

Questions about the survey content may be directed to Marjorie Ribeiro at mrbeiro@isbe.net (mailto:mrbeiro@isbe.net).

Contact the ISBE Call Center at (217) 558-3600 for any technical issues or questions about your IWAS account.

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

ESSA Update

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) approved the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan for Illinois on Aug. 30, 2017. ISBE is grateful for the rich stakeholder engagement and feedback in the development and refinement of the plan. Below is more information on what we are working on as we move toward implementation in 2018-19.


- The Technical Advisory Council (TAC) will begin meeting this month. The TAC consists of state and national experts who have experience in the establishment of state accountability systems. This work will be completed by March 2018 and will be shared for public comment. Once approved by the State Board of Education, the system will be used to identify schools for support, as well as provide a summative designation for families.
- A strength of the ESSA State Plan is the multiple school quality/student success indicators. Three student success indicators were identified for further study: P-2 Indicator, Elementary and Middle Level Indicator, and College and Career Readiness Indicator. Stakeholders with interest and expertise in each of these particular areas has begun meeting to develop recommendations. These recommendations will be shared for public comment and be submitted to the State Board no later than Dec. 31, 2017.
- ISBE will be conducting an IL-EMPOWER pilot for the 2017-18 school year with a number of school districts across Illinois. The pilot will focus on testing the concept to determine how useful the proposed structure can be for students and educators before full implementation.
- ISBE has hired an ombudsman as it is required to do by ESSA. Carmine Draude’s job will be to help ensure equitable services are provided to private school children, teachers, and other educational personnel. She can be contacted at cdraude@isbe.net (mailto:cdraude@isbe.net) or (563) 271-6633.

ESSA provides that the 2017-18 school year is a transition year. ISBE will continue to regularly share updates on ESSA implementation. Should you have questions or concerns, please submit them to essa@isbe.net (mailto:essa@isbe.net).

Site-Based Expenditure Reporting

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](#)  (/Documents/Financial-Reporting-Requirements-Letter.pdf) sent to districts 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).

SPECIAL NOTICE

Requirements for Hiring Registered Nurses to Provide Special Education Evaluation Services

Special education rule 226.840 lists the credentials required to administer certain types of evaluations for students receiving or being considered for special education services. Completing Medical Review is limited to the credentials set forth in Section 226.160 of special education rules. The requirement is that a registered nurse (RN) with an ISBE Professional Educator License (PEL) endorsed for school nursing be hired. If the district demonstrates the inability to hire an RN with a PEL, an RN with a bachelor's degree, a licensed physician, or an advanced practice nurse may be hired provided they meet other requirements. No other credentials are recognized as qualified to administer or perform the health evaluation as defined by ISBE in rule 226.160.

New hires for school nurse positions that include job duties for IEP evaluations and plans must have a PEL with a school nurse endorsement, verifiable on ELIS. If no PEL-licensed RN is available, the district may hire an RN with a bachelor's degree, a licensed physician, or an advanced practice nurse provided that the individual completes the medical review training or passes the school nurse content test within 12 months of the date of hire and provided that the district has submitted to ISBE and ISBE has approved the request to hire an RN without PEL. Before the application may be approved, all documentation verifying the job posting, recruitment effort, results, and qualifications of the candidate must be reviewed by ISBE. See the [Special Education Medical Review Training](#)  (<http://www.isbe.net/Documents/sped-med-review-req-160701.pdf>) document for more information on the specific documents required. Once the entire process is completed (application, approval by ISBE, course or content test completed), the non-PEL applicant will be issued a designation of "Non-PEL RN with IEP privileges PreK-21" by ISBE and entered into ELIS. If a new hire holds a previously issued IEP designation, the new hire must also hold (beginning July 1, 2016) a bachelor's degree in nursing, education, or a related field.

The process of request and approval is primarily managed by Jessica Gerdes, who is principal consultant for school nursing and health issues. She can be reached at Jgerdes@isbe.net (mailto:Jgerdes@isbe.net) or (312) 814-2220 .

The IEP health evaluation / Medical Review sections of the IEP documents must carry the signature of either RN, PEL-SN, or RN, IEP designee. An employee is not authorized to perform the Medical Review without one of those credentials clearly shown on the public search section of the ELIS, regardless if a number of prerequisites, such as content test or degrees or internship, have been completed.

EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY

K-5 Computer Science Fundamentals Workshops

Learning Technology Centers (LTC) have collaborated with ROEs, ISCs, and Code.org to facilitate nine "K-5 Computer Science Fundamentals" workshops throughout the state during the month of October. These workshops provide teachers with hands-on training in computer science education. Topics include computational thinking, classroom strategies, programming with kids, and "unplugged" classroom activities ready for immediate adoption. No prior experience in computing is required. For dates, locations, and agendas, visit the [LTC Illinois coding webpage](http://www.ltcillinois.org/coding) (<http://www.ltcillinois.org/coding>).

Upcoming Illinois Education and Technology Conference

The Illinois Education and Technology Conference (IETC) is holding its annual conference Nov. 15-17 in Springfield. The conference is focused on technology integration strategies, engaging instructional practices, digital tools and resources, and emerging trends for teachers, administrators, and technology staff. Learn, explore, and connect with other innovative educators to harness the power of technology and prepare future-ready students. For more information, visit the [IETC website](http://www.il-edtech.org) (<http://www.il-edtech.org>).

NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report Open Until Nov. 15

The Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report is now open in IWAS until Nov. 15 for renewals. Currently registered schools and formerly registered schools seeking to be registered again should use this system to renew their registration.

Schools wishing to be registered for the first time will need to access the paper form, which is available on the [nonpublic programs webpage](http://www.isbe.net/nonpublicprograms) (<http://www.isbe.net/nonpublicprograms>) under bar number 3.

The Nonpublic School Application for Recognition and Calendar system annual upgrade is taking longer than expected to operationalize and will be released soon. ISBE will notify you via the nonpublic listserv, IWAS blast, and the Weekly Message when it is available. ISBE will adjust the closing date accordingly. ISBE apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause, but please note that schools can still submit the Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report now. It is a prerequisite to Recognition.

In addition, schools can submit the Student Health Data – Immunizations Report once it opens on Oct. 16, which is also a prerequisite to Recognition. ISBE hopes that the Recognition delay will not be a significant problem for our schools.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Gary Greene at (312) 814-3985 or ggreene@isbe.net (<mailto:ggreene@isbe.net>).

FUNDING & DISBURSEMENTS

2016-17 (FY 2018) Annual Claim for Pupil Transportation Reimbursement – Correction Period Now Open

All local education entities are hereby notified that the review and amendment (if needed) process for the Pupil Transportation Reimbursement Claim is now open and will end at midnight on Monday, Nov. 6. All revisions must be completed and transmitted on or before that time. No revisions will be accepted after that date in order to close the claim file and schedule the three remaining quarterly payments.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REVIEWING THE CLAIM

1. Log into the ISBE Web Application Security system (IWAS).

2. Click on "System Listing" on the IWAS homepage.
 3. Select "Pupil Transportation Claim Reimbursement System" under the "Annual Claims" heading.
 4. Click on **"Claim Review"** under the "Reimbursement Claim" heading on the homepage. **Do not click on "Revise Claim" button unless you need to make revisions.**
 5. The claim will be loaded to the screen in read-only format. Carefully review each line on the claim for possible revisions. If you entered transportation assets on the Depreciation Schedule, don't forget to click on the "Depreciation Schedule" button at the bottom of the screen and review the depreciation schedule data for possible revisions.
- If you do not have any revisions, you do not need to do anything.** Your claim will remain as originally submitted by the statutory Aug. 15 due date.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REVISING THE CLAIM

If you have reviewed the claim and found that revisions are needed to the depreciation schedule and/or the pupil transportation reimbursement claim:

1. Click on the "Revise Claim" link under the "Reimbursement Claim" heading on the homepage.
2. You may enter notes in the "Your Comments" text box to help you remember why revisions were needed. Click on the "Revise Claim" button at the bottom of the screen to proceed with revisions to the depreciation schedule (if needed) and the pupil transportation reimbursement claim.
3. Note that all links for the reimbursement claim are open and may be revised, as needed. The "Depreciation Schedule Summary" link under the "Depreciation Schedule" heading has been changed to "Calculate Depreciation Allowance." If you made any changes to transportation assets after the August submit date, you must click on this link and update the Depreciation Schedule.
4. **After all revisions have been made, click on the "Review & Submit Claim."** All revised claims must be resubmitted to ISBE through the proper channels (Document Author to the District Superintendent and District Superintendent to ISBE).

NO REVISIONS TO THE CLAIM WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER MIDNIGHT ON MONDAY, NOV. 6.

If you have questions regarding the amendment process, contact Mark Morten at (217) 782-5256 or mmorten@isbe.net (mailto:mmorten@isbe.net)

ASSESSMENTS & 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 & CULTURE

Resources to Help Children, Families, and Educators Cope with Traumatic Events

- [Coping with Traumatic Events: Resources for Children, Parents, Educators, and Other Professionals from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](https://www.samhsa.gov/capt/tools-learning-resources/coping-traumatic-events-resources) (<https://www.samhsa.gov/capt/tools-learning-resources/coping-traumatic-events-resources>)
- [Helping Children and Adolescents Cope with Violence and Disasters: What Parents Can Do from the National Institute of Mental Health](https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/helping-children-and-adolescents-cope-with-violence-and-disasters-parents/index.shtml) (<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/helping-children-and-adolescents-cope-with-violence-and-disasters-parents/index.shtml>)
- [Helping Kids After a Shooting from the American School Counselor Association](https://www.schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors-members/professional-development/learn-more/shooting-resources) (<https://www.schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors-members/professional-development/learn-more/shooting-resources>)
- [Resources from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network](http://www.nctsn.org/trauma-types/terrorism) (<http://www.nctsn.org/trauma-types/terrorism>)
- [Talking to Children About Tragedies & Other News Events from the American Academy of Pediatrics](https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/Media/Pages/Talking-To-Children-About-Tragedies-and-Other-News-Events.aspx) (<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/Media/Pages/Talking-To-Children-About-Tragedies-and-Other-News-Events.aspx>)

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 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 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)

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[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=013f0bdc80cc044b5bace0edee4ec139b&authkey=AUPs9o_jyupFlrZWHEoF5i4&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?](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)

[docid=013f0bdc80cc044b5bace0edee4ec139b&authkey=AUPs9o_jyupFlrZWHEoF5i4&expiration=2017-12-15T06:00:00.000Z](http://www.ilclassroomsinaction.org/instructional-supports.html)) is also available.

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 (IEL) has updated its [website](http://www.illinoisearlylearning.org)

(file:///C:/Users/mgriffin/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/Temporary%20Internet%20Files/Content.Outlook/S24JL2VW/illinoisearlylearning.org) 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.

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 the [Accounts page](http://www.illinois.gov/sites/accounts/Pages/default.aspx) (<http://www.illinois.gov/sites/accounts/Pages/default.aspx>). Additional instructions may also be found on the [Grantee Portal FAQ page](http://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-) (<https://www.sam.gov/portal/SAM/?portal:componentId=6fd72bdf-176f-4f82-99b2->

bfd794cb124f&interactionstate=JBPNs_r00ABXc0ABBfanNmQnJpZGdlVmld0lkAAAAAQATL2pzI9mdW5jdGlvbmFsLmpzcAAHX19FT0ZfXw%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/>)). (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](#) (/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

- **The Illinois Children’s Healthcare Foundation (ILCHF)** is expanding its Children’s Mental Health Initiative (CMHI 2.0) to offer funding to four Illinois communities to build systems of care that prevent, identify, and treat children’s mental and behavioral health problems. Visit the [ILCHF website](#) (<http://www.ilchf.org/>) for more information and to apply. Applications for funding are due Feb. 1.

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>)!

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! 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.

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 Resources

- The **Sikh Coalition** has made bullying prevention resources available on the [Sikh Coalition website](https://www.sikhcoalition.org/resources/) (<https://www.sikhcoalition.org/resources/>), including a brief introduction to the beliefs and practices of Sikhs, the Sikh Coalition Bullying Report, and information on the White House AAPI Bullying Prevention Task Force.

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 on the [Prudential website](https://spirit.prudential.com/) (<https://spirit.prudential.com/>) and the [NASSP website](https://www.nassp.org/recognition/student-awards/prudential-spirit-of-community-awards?SSO=true) (<https://www.nassp.org/recognition/student-awards/prudential-spirit-of-community-awards?SSO=true>). The application deadline is Nov. 7. The awards are sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

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>).

