

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

 [Printable PDF](#)

October 11, 2017



Hello,

I've been celebrating many of the wonderful things I've been seeing at the start of the school year. This week I am also recognizing something positive -- it's just that the conditions that prompted the recognition are tough to talk about.

Every day educators and administrators in our schools are placed in unexpected situations that could affect lives forever. When external forces violate our schools, they not only rob our students of their opportunity to learn, they also rob them of their feelings of safety, security, and well-being. This is something many superintendents, principals, teachers, and staff did not anticipate being a part of their work and it has unfortunately become a part of our daily responsibility.

I want to recognize Springfield Public School District 186 for all they've gone through since school began this year. Someone has called in threats against schools on multiple occasions. Responding to these multiple threats, the district team

has demonstrated tremendous leadership and preparation to protect students and adults. Superintendent Jennifer Gill is demonstrating remarkable grace and resolve to ensure everyone's safety as the community deals with these threats. In each incident, families were immediately notified via automated calls and follow-up communications were continued throughout the ordeals each week. Students and staff were evacuated to safe sites where weather and technology needs were taken into consideration. The district continually provided a consistent message for students and offered follow-up support through social workers and psychologists.

I would also like to recognize those in the community who have come to the aid of the district. Partnerships ranging from Illinois State Police K-9 units to the state's Attorney General demonstrated the broader community's willingness to come together to protect students and staff in our schools. Thank you to everyone for working so well together.

We all have a responsibility to come together to protect our kids. If you see something, say something. If your kids say something, do something.

As you know, many children in our communities across the state have regular exposure to violence and experience the effects of trauma in school, in their community, or at home. We have to find as many ways as possible to address trauma and other barriers to learning and teaching. The [National Child Traumatic Stress Network](http://www.nctsn.org/trauma-types) (<http://www.nctsn.org/trauma-types>) offers resources for varying types of trauma and effective therapies. It is up to each of us to do what we can to stop or prevent dangerous situations and to create safe and healthy communities. It is our continued responsibility to create the very safest environment for our students.

Quick Links

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October is National Bullying Prevention Month. Bullying has expanded in its reach and definition. In today's world, kids have no break from the effects of bullying due to constant engagement with social media. We must work to protect students by supporting them, engaging with them in supportive climates by creating a sense of community, and promoting social and emotional learning. Staff have to model what care and concern look like and have to demonstrate empathy to colleagues and students. Students are watching our interactions. Multiple resources are available to assist schools and communities with creating such environments and addressing the varying forms of bullying:

- [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\) app](https://store.samhsa.gov/apps/knowbullying/index.html) (<https://store.samhsa.gov/apps/knowbullying/index.html>)
- [Stopbullying.gov](https://www.stopbullying.gov/) (<https://www.stopbullying.gov/>)
- [PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center](http://www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm/) (<http://www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm/>)

I have the deepest appreciation for the work you do and how hard it is. I had a coach who talked about being a “merchant of hope.” He said it was his job to make us believe we could achieve our goals. I've come to believe that as educators in schools we are all merchants of hope. We all have the chance to help students believe they can do something special. With so much pressure on our kids, they need us more than ever. When they know we believe in them, they are safer to take risks and develop into their best selves. You are the guardians of their learning, the protective agents who create safe and healthy schools where students can thrive. I know saying thank you for how much you give to the students and families you serve is not sufficient. It is with heartfelt gratitude and humility that I promise ISBE's full support to you as you serve your community.

Take care,

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

Oct. 16: [2017 Report Card Data Webinar](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2747125789781226243)
(<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2747125789781226243>)

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. 9: Deadline to submit 2017-18 Unfilled Positions Survey in IWAS

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. 15: Deadline to submit Nonpublic Registration, Enrollment, and Staff Report in IWAS

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-)
(<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IAEW-CONTEST->

FORM.pdf)

Dec. 13: Illinois State Board of Education meeting

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

Dec. 25: ISBE offices closed for Christmas Day

Jan. 1: ISBE offices closed for New Year's Day

Jan. 15: ISBE offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Jan. 17: Illinois State Board of Education meeting

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

Feb. 1: Teacher Salary Study window closes

Feb. 1: Non-Certified Staff Salary Study window closes

March 12-18: 2018 Illinois Arts Education Week

THOSE WHO EXCEL

Meet Teacher of the Year Finalist Angie Noble



Angie Noble teaches third grade at Jerseyville East Elementary School in Jersey Community Unit School District 100. The 2017-18 school year is Angie's 18th year of teaching and her passion for it has grown bigger and bigger with each passing year.

She knew from an early age that she was meant to be a teacher. Angie loved school and was often called the "teacher's pet" by her peers. Angie admits she was an average student who had to work hard. She graduated magna cum laude from college, becoming the first college member of her family to earn a degree. Angie has been a leader throughout her career and an excellent role model for colleagues and students alike.

Parents rave about Angie's teaching and the innovative projects she uses to help students learn to love learning. One of the projects included developing businesses involving a specific plan, advertising, and determining a profit. Her nominator wrote that Angie's "positive demeanor helped promote differential learning that inspired her students to learn more creatively, a little differently from what they had done in the past."

Angie received a grant during the 2016-17 school year that allowed her to introduce her students to robotics. Students were inspired and engaged in multiple projects, including building actual robots, that incorporated science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). "My child spent a year learning while having the time of his life," said the mother of one of Angie's students. "Mrs. Noble's creative lesson-planning and curriculum expertise allow for a fun, memorable school year with my child learning things he will never forget."

One of Angie's goals as a teacher is to prepare students to be problem-solvers in an ever-changing world. She is especially passionate about technology as a teaching and learning tool. She says that "the use of various technologies allows me to better differentiate in the classroom and give students great hands-on learning experiences." Angie uses online assessments she creates, videos that ignite student's curiosity, and electronic building blocks to engage and excite students about learning.

Angie is also a natural leader within the school and the community. She is always looking for ways to improve the school, improve her teaching, and improve the experiences of the students in her classroom. Angie is willing to pilot new curriculum and provide feedback to the decision-makers. She has written numerous grants for science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) materials for her classroom. Angie puts it this way, "I do what it takes to get my students hands-on, engaging technology that allows them to work collaboratively with their peers."

Angie has high expectations for her students and she lets her students know what those expectations are. Angie tells them on the first day of school that they are the best and the brightest students and that is why they were put into her classroom. She celebrates small successes with as much enthusiasm as she celebrates large successes. Angie firmly believes that this philosophy helps students grow

and achieve throughout the year. One of her former students described her experience in Angie's classroom like this: "She walked in the room every morning with a smile on her face and I knew right away it was going to be a great day! I think it is important to feel loved in the classroom, and I always felt loved and knew she cared about me."

Angie 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

Registration Open for 2017 Report Card Data Webinar

The "Your 2017 Report Card Data: Being Prepared for the Release" webinar will take place from **3-4 p.m. on Oct. 16**. The webinar is intended for district and school administrators. This webinar will provide a brief orientation to the data available in the 2017 Illinois Report Card, as well as provide strategies for analyzing, contextualizing, and communicating this data to stakeholders and media. Attendees will also hear from three school administrators on how they approach their data and the stories it helps them tell. Time will be provided to answer local questions and promote sharing of effective practices. [Registration now available](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2747125789781226243) (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2747125789781226243>).

Please contact ISBE's Megan Griffin at mgriffin@isbe.net (mailto:mgriffin@isbe.net) with questions regarding the webinar.

Annual District Assessment Survey Deadline Approaching - Oct. 18

The [Annual District Assessment survey](#) (/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 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>), 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.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Request for Applications Issued for FY 2018 Farm to School Grants

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Community Food Systems released the [Fiscal Year 2018 Farm to School Request for Applications](#) (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/fy18-farm-school-grant>) on Oct. 4. The deadline for applications is Dec. 8.

The USDA anticipates awarding approximately \$5 million in grants in this funding cycle to support efforts that improve access to local foods in schools. Grant funds will be made available on a competitive basis, subject to availability of federal funds. Applicants may apply for a planning grant, implementation grant, or training grant. Planning grant awards will range from \$20,000 to \$50,000, implementation grant awards will be from \$50,000 to \$100,000, and funding for training grants is expected to range from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

The federal share of a project for all three types of grants cannot exceed 75 percent of the total cost of the project, as required by the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. Therefore, the applicant must provide at least 25 percent of the costs of the total project. The total project cost is the federal grant request amount plus the applicant match.

For more information, visit the link above and [Resources for Farm to School Grant Program Applicants page](#) (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/resources-farm-school-grant-program-applicants>). Past news releases and award winners are on the [USDA Grant Awards web page](#) (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/grant-awards>).

List of HealthierUS School Challenge Award: Smarter Lunchrooms Recipients Grows in Illinois

Please join us in congratulating new HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms program recipients in Illinois!

Namaste Charter School recently earned a Gold Award of Distinction. The Chicago Public School District 299 school is among only 31 schools to earn the highest distinction in the award program since it was introduced in 2004.

Crestwood School in Paris, Ill., earned a Bronze level award. Crestwood is in Paris Community Unit School District 4. Also earning the Bronze award is Paris Union School District 95, which includes Carolyn Wenz Elementary School, Mayo Middle School, and Memorial Elementary School.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms is a voluntary certification initiative recognizing those schools enrolled in the USDA's Team Nutrition that have created healthier school environments through promotion of nutrition and physical activity. There are four levels of HealthierUS School Challenge certifications that schools can earn: Gold Award of Distinction, Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Award-winning schools receive a monetary incentive (Bronze, \$500; Silver, \$1,000; Gold, \$1,500; Gold Award of Distinction, \$2,000), an award plaque, and a banner to display in the school.

To qualify for an award, a school must submit an application and meet basic criteria set by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service and Smarter Lunchroom Movement techniques. The criteria reflect the recommendations of the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the recommendations published by the Institute of Medicine for foods that should be served outside the organized school meals program. HealthierUS Schools also must demonstrate commitment to a healthy school environment and implement a local school wellness policy. Schools then commit to meeting the criteria throughout a four-year certification period.

A [complete list of HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms award-winners in Illinois](#) (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/hussc/illinois-award-winners>) is available online. The recognition program is administered in Illinois by ISBE. For more information about the program, visit the [HUSSC homepage](#) (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/hussc/healthierus-school-challenge-smarter-lunchrooms>).

Registration Underway for Free Healthier Meals Cooking Class

ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division recently announced more Healthier Meals Cooking Classes starting this October. Those working with the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the National School Lunch Program, and the School Breakfast Program are welcome to attend the free classes.

“Baking and Whole Grains” will be offered in Springfield in partnership with Lincoln Land Community College, in Chicago at Kendall College, and in Centralia at Kaskaskia College. Courses are scheduled for this month, November, February, March, and April. For a detailed schedule and to register for courses, look under “Training Opportunities” on the [Child and Adult Care Food Program page \(/Pages/Child-Adult-Care-Food-Program.aspx\)](#) and click “Healthier Meals Cooking Classes.”

Attendees get the opportunity to increase their professional skills with hands-on cooking in a state-of-the-art kitchen and receive a certificate of completion for the course.

Space is limited! Please note that while this is considered the Level 3 course in the Healthier Meals Cooking Class series, the Level 1 and 2 courses are not required before taking “Level 3: Baking and Whole Grains.” For questions, call the Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division at (800) 545-7892.

WELLNESS PROGRAMS

Registration Underway for 2017 Illinois School Health Days

The 2017 Illinois School Health Days starts next month. The training is jointly provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Public Health Association.

The target audience for the training is nurses working in schools, Illinois Professional Educator Licensed school nurses, and school health personnel.

Dates and locations scheduled include:

- Nov. 7 in Springfield
- Nov. 14 in Arlington Heights
- Nov. 15 in Lisle
- Nov. 28 in Collinsville
- Dec. 5 in Rockford

Visit the [IPHA website \(https://www.ipha.com/event/details/55/2017-illinois-school-health-days\)](https://www.ipha.com/event/details/55/2017-illinois-school-health-days) for more information and to register.

Full Day Training - Pump Up P.E.: Promote Health, Learning, and Lifelong Fitness

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 Pump up P.E. \(http://iphionline.org/pump_up_pe/\)](http://iphionline.org/pump_up_pe/)

Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2017

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

Location: 8200 Gross Point Rd., Morton Grove, IL 60053

[Register for the Pump Up P.E. in Morton Gove \(https://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0056-0007-ee16998477ec4b2a8efedfc2971d0e60\)](https://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0056-0007-ee16998477ec4b2a8efedfc2971d0e60) - registration fee applies.

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. in Springfield](http://iphionline.org/register_pump_11_15_springfield/) (http://iphionline.org/register_pump_11_15_springfield/) - registration fee applies.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Preschool for All, Preschool for All-Expansion, and Prevention Initiative

The statewide re-compete to receive funding for Preschool for All, Preschool for All-Expansion, and Prevention Initiative birth to 3 funds will be taking place this fall, with funding beginning in fiscal year 2019.

Preschool for All is a preschool program that provides services in a half-day or full-day setting to children 3 to 5 years who are considered to be at risk of academic failure. The Preschool for All-Expansion program also provides these services to at-risk children 3 to 5, with the added requirement of full-day comprehensive services. The Prevention Initiative program serves children birth to age 3, also giving priority to children and their families who are at risk of academic failure. The Prevention Initiative programs are mostly home-based; however, these services can be based in a child care center.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for Preschool for All and Preschool for All-Expansion will be released in November and the Prevention Initiative RFP will be released in December. If interested in applying for these funds, the first step is to submit a Notice of Intent. A link to the Notice of Intent will be posted on ISBE's Early Childhood webpage at least two weeks before the RFP is released. The RFPs will also be posted on the ISBE Early Childhood website once released. This information will also be shared in the Superintendent's Weekly Message and through ISBE social media

Applicants will have 60 days from the date of release to submit a proposal. Links to data, webinars, and other resources to assist communities, providers, and others in preparing for the FY 2019 re-compete can be found ISBE's Early Childhood webpage titled [Request for Proposals \(RFP\) Information](#). (/Pages/RFPs.aspx)

For questions, please contact the Division of Early Childhood Education at (217) 524-4835.

FUNDING & DISBURSEMENTS

Public Act 99-0720 – Driver Education Instruction – Law Enforcement Traffic Stops

Please be advised per Public Act 99-0720 that beginning with the 2017-18 school year all public and nonpublic schools that offer driver education must include instruction concerning law enforcement procedures for traffic stops, including a demonstration of the proper actions to be taken during a traffic stop and appropriate interactions with law enforcement as part of the required 30 classroom hours of instruction.

Questions may be directed to Jennifer Jonas at jjonas@isbe.net (mailto:jjonas@isbe.net) or (217) 782-5256.

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 [Back to Top](#) payments.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REVIEWING THE CLAIM

1. Log in to 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)

5ESSENTIALS SURVEY

Upcoming 5Essentials Webinars

The below 5Essentials webinars will be taking place during the month of October. For inquires and support concerning the 5Essentials Survey, please visit the [5Essentials Support Center](https://help.5-essentials.org/) (https://help.5-essentials.org/).

5Essentials ISBE New Users Orientation

Thursday, Oct. 19, from 11 a.m. - noon

[Register for the ISBE New Users Orientation](https://uchicago.webex.com/mw3100/mywebex/default.do?service=1&siteurl=uchicago&nomenu=true&main_url=/mc3100/e.do?siteurl%3Duchicago%26AT%3DMI%26EventID%3D549972142%26UID%3D0%26Host%3DQUhTSwAAAARY8AkysFoKsCDpSDacsgBsC4sPhA01he8kzYZutb7O4oOgcTAtWnCU18Dwzlj1Vj1kuV8o4IqJ582R-8mOz990%26RG%3D1%26FrameSet%3D2%26RGID%3Dr4504ed64bdb6caa7c5024f9e022f30db) (https://uchicago.webex.com/mw3100/mywebex/default.do?

service=1&siteurl=uchicago&nomenu=true&main_url=/mc3100/e.do?

siteurl%3Duchicago%26AT%3DMI%26EventID%3D549972142%26UID%3D0%26Host%3DQUhTSwAAAARY8AkysFoKsCDpSDacsgBsC4sPhA01he8kzYZutb7O4oOgcTAtWnCU18Dwzlj1Vj1kuV8o4IqJ582R-

8mOz990%26RG%3D1%26FrameSet%3D2%26RGID%3Dr4504ed64bdb6caa7c5024f9e022f30db)

5Essentials ISBE Returning Users Orientation

Thursday, Oct. 19, from 3-4 p.m.

[Register for the ISBE Returning Users Orientation](https://uchicago.webex.com/mw3100/mywebex/default.do?service=1&siteurl=uchicago&nomenu=true&main_url=/mc3100/e.do?siteurl%3Duchicago%26AT%3DMI%26EventID%3D549970052%26UID%3D0%26Host%3DQUhTSwAAAATsQFWKIVq1KzBMgSU0IGzwXcOatbXXPcz04UAX5JITgdhDZb4NtQkFq8Ft27zj1wYuRR1GCNg8bVultE3SiVjE0%26RG%3D1%26FrameSet%3D2%26RGID%3Drcfcd77d1e006642aec70a5a2892ed758) (https://uchicago.webex.com/mw3100/mywebex/default.do?

service=1&siteurl=uchicago&nomenu=true&main_url=/mc3100/e.do?

siteurl%3Duchicago%26AT%3DMI%26EventID%3D549970052%26UID%3D0%26Host%3DQUhTSwAAAATsQFWKIVq1KzBMgSU0IGzwXcOatbXXPcz04UAX5JITgdhDZb4NtQkFq8Ft27zj1wYuRR1GCNg8bVultE3SiVjE0%26RG%3D1%26FrameSet%3D2%26RGID%3Drcfcd77d1e006642aec70a5a2892ed758)

5Essentials ISBE New Users Orientation #2

Tuesday, Oct. 24, from 3-4 p.m.

[Register for the New Users Orientation #2](https://uchicago.webex.com/mw3100/mywebex/default.do?service=1&siteurl=uchicago&nomenu=true&main_url=/mc3100/e.do?siteurl%3Duchicago%26AT%3DMI%26EventID%3D549980237%26UID%3D0%26Host%3DQUhTSwAAAAR1MuFs9cSKKZxK4ONc-iObIWGuTH92bFwPQj8FAyDcLBHi4SqBVxblB7q53IK9gckuJze-Dx9De2f-jypteHF0%26RG%3D1%26FrameSet%3D2%26RGID%3Dr47a4827b6e44bf0c16559b7584259242) (https://uchicago.webex.com/mw3100/mywebex/default.do?

service=1&siteurl=uchicago&nomenu=true&main_url=/mc3100/e.do?

siteurl%3Duchicago%26AT%3DMI%26EventID%3D549980237%26UID%3D0%26Host%3DQUhTSwAAAAR1MuFs9cSKKZxK4ONc-iObIWGuTH92bFwPQj8FAyDcLBHi4SqBVxblB7q53IK9gckuJze-Dx9De2f-jypteHF0%26RG%3D1%26FrameSet%3D2%26RGID%3Dr47a4827b6e44bf0c16559b7584259242)

5Essentials ISBE Returning Users Orientation #2

Wednesday, Oct. 25, from 11 a.m. - noon

[Register for the ISBE Returning Orientation #2](https://uchicago.webex.com/mw3100/mywebex/default.do?service=1&siteurl=uchicago&nomenu=true&main_url=/mc3100/e.do?siteurl%3Duchicago%26AT%3DMI%26EventID%3D549981247%26UID%3D0%26Host%3DQUhTSwAAAARqaH8Ap9AKmIJP4823ggeOJHx6alsSGURYvklzyj9bVKsuAeThkDfqd00Qs6xnvwNCjJiMqRqWhqU3Q9bQw910%26RG%3D1%26FrameSet%3D2%26RGID%3Drf1baab7805bed669406e795d1031a9f4) (https://uchicago.webex.com/mw3100/mywebex/default.do?


service=1&siteurl=uchicago&nomenu=true&main_url=/mc3100/e.do?

siteurl%3Duchicago%26AT%3DMI%26EventID%3D549981247%26UID%3D0%26Host%3DQUhTSwAAAARqaH8Ap9AKmIJP4823ggeOJHx6alsSGURYvklzyj9bVKsuAeThkDfqd00Qs6xnvwNCjJiMqRqWhqU3Q9bQw910%26RG%3D1%26FrameSet%3D2%26RGID%3Drf1baab7805bed669406e795d1031a9f4)

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](#)  (/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.

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).

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) .

CLIMATE AND 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)

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).

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).

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_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/>)). (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

Educator Recognition

- Congratulations to **Kirsten Perry of Lawndale Community Academy** in Chicago for being named one of six [2018 School Counselor of the Year national finalists](#)  (https://www.schoolcounselor.org/asca/media/asca/Press%20releases/2018-SCOY-Finalists-Press-Release_1.pdf) by the American School Counselor Association!

Administrator Recognition

- Congratulations to the four Illinois Superintendents recognized by **NSPRA** (<https://www.nspra.org/meet-superintendents-watch-2017-18>) as **2017-18 Superintendents to Watch!**
 - **Dr. Laurie Heinz**, Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 (Park Ridge)
 - **Kathy Hinz**, Crystal Lake Elementary District 47 (Crystal Lake)
 - **Floyd Williams**, Community Consolidated School District 62 (Des Plaines)

- **Dr. Daniel Woestman**, Belvidere School District (Belvidere)
- 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 **2017 Raising Student Achievement Conference (RSAC)** sponsored by the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (IARSS) will be held Dec. 4-5 at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles. This very popular annual conference offers an abundance of presenters on a variety of topics focused on increasing student achievement. [Learn more and register for the conference](http://www.roeachievementconference.org/) (<http://www.roeachievementconference.org/>).

Professional Development Opportunities

- **The Illinois Geographic Alliance** is offering a free, one-day workshop for K-12 teachers titled “Geography Education in the 21st Century” on Saturday, Nov. 11, on the Illinois State University campus. There is no registration fee. PD hours will also be provided. [Registration now open](https://forms.illinoisstate.edu/forms/geo__2017_geography_education_conference_registration) (https://forms.illinoisstate.edu/forms/geo__2017_geography_education_conference_registration).

Student Opportunities

- U.S. high school students can apply now for a **full merit-based scholarship to study abroad** during the 2018-19 school year sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Please note that each program has a separate online application process and application deadlines vary from Nov. 2 to Dec. 11. [View the study abroad programs and apply](https://exchanges.state.gov/us/high-school). (<https://exchanges.state.gov/us/high-school>)

Recognition Opportunity

- The deadline to nominate someone for the **School Nutrition Foundation’s Celebration of School Nutrition Heroes** (<https://schoolnutrition.org/news-publications/news/2017/snf-2018-call-for-nominations-celebration-sn-heroes/>) is Oct. 27. The Celebration of School Nutrition Heroes will be held for the fifth year on March 5, 2018, during SNA’s Legislative Action Conference.

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/) (<http://www.ilchf.org/>) for more information and to apply. Applications for funding are due Feb. 1.

District Resources

- **October is National Farm to School Month!** Join thousands of schools, early care and education sites, farms, communities, and organizations across the country in the celebration. Find out how to participate by going to the [National Farm to School Network National Farm to School Month web page](http://www.farmtoschool.org/our-work/farm-to-school-month) (<http://www.farmtoschool.org/our-work/farm-to-school-month>).
- 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/).

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).