

# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

 [Printable PDF](#)

November 7, 2017



Hello,

As a state agency, we are choosing to champion progress while naming the deep gaps that persist in our state. We are acknowledging Illinois educators as leaders for a healthier and more economically secure future. Illinois is making progress generally *and* specifically we have to do much more to help the children and families in greatest need. There are historical structural inequities in our cities and towns, and increasing numbers of families that are living in distress (studying the research on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) underscores the necessity of trauma-informed practice in our schools). We can simultaneously understand this context *and* recognize growth. Acknowledging that we are doing some things well does not mean we don't see the inequity around us, recognize we have to improve our practice, and feel the urgency to help more students thrive by meeting their individual needs.

Of course we see the need. When I visit schools across our state, teachers, principals, superintendents, and all school staff describe the trauma and need they see every single day. They also celebrate the successes they are having with students. Educators know what our children need to thrive. When we talk about “at-risk” populations, it is so important to remember that the child is not the source of the deficit. As adults in communities, we have made policy decisions that concentrate or strip resources from the neighborhoods our children live in and where they go to school. Too often, the discourse is about the “high-need” students. That language does not recognize the truth that what those students need is what every healthy developing child needs. Public schools are places where we receive every child and do our best to help those children find possibility and purpose. Public school educators are stewards of the common good. Therefore, we must relentlessly improve our practice. Celebrating growth while knowing we have more to do is part of learning to teach and lead.


In Chicago, for example, significant structural issues have left children and families in desperate situations – *and* more children are achieving at higher levels than ever before. A [recent analysis](http://cps.edu/News/Press_releases/Pages/PR1_11_02_2017.aspx) ([http://cps.edu/News/Press\\_releases/Pages/PR1\\_11\\_02\\_2017.aspx](http://cps.edu/News/Press_releases/Pages/PR1_11_02_2017.aspx)) shows that among the 100 largest school districts in the country, Chicago has the highest growth rate between third and eighth grade. The average Chicago student's test scores improved by roughly six grade-level equivalents in five years' time. Good things are happening in Illinois *and* we have work to do. As educators and leaders, we will continue to use our progress to generate more progress.

Illinois is home to a number of military-connected students and families. As we honor those who have served our country this Veteran's Day, it is important to elevate the significant issues veterans and their families face that do not get enough attention. Many veterans struggle with mental health and homelessness. As a public school system, we can play a role in supporting military-connected families.

## Quick Links

- [Culture & Climate](#)
- [Every Student Succeeds Act](#)
- [Budget & Finance](#)
- [Rules & Waivers](#)
- [Early Childhood Education](#)
- [Nutrition Programs](#)
- [Charter Schools](#)
- [Grant Accountability](#)
- [Transparency Act](#)
- [In Brief](#)

Find resources for addressing the unique needs of the children of military families on our [webpage](#) (/Pages/Children-of-Military-Families.aspx).

Illinois is also home to a large Puerto Rican population. Governor Rauner put out a [direct request](#) (<https://www2.illinois.gov/Pages/news-item.aspx?ReleaseID=15008>) last week for Illinois to serve as a host state for disaster victims from Puerto Rico who have been displaced by Hurricane Maria. Last month, he also sent a [letter](#)  ([https://www2.illinois.gov/ISNews/14886-Governor\\_Rauner\\_Letter.pdf](https://www2.illinois.gov/ISNews/14886-Governor_Rauner_Letter.pdf)) to Puerto Rican Governor Ricardo Rosselló expressing Illinois' commitment to assisting in the recovery process. Due to Hurricane Maria and other natural disasters, some school districts may receive students relocating from Puerto Rico or other impacted areas. Such students may be homeless under the federal McKinney Vento Act and the Illinois Education for Homeless Children Act. Homeless students include, but are not limited to, children or youth sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason (commonly referred to as being "doubled up") and children who are otherwise not residing in a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Homeless students must be immediately enrolled even if they lack documentation normally required for enrollment. Find more information about assisting students displaced by Hurricane Maria below or visit our [Homeless Education webpage](#) (/Pages/Homeless.aspx). The [National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#) (<http://www.nctsn.org/trauma-types>) shares resources for supporting students experiencing the effects of this and other traumas. I know that schools and communities across the state have united to help those affected by Hurricane Maria and other disasters. I am inspired by Illinois students' and educators' generosity and commitment to helping those in need in Illinois and beyond.

Now that we have a new system of funding, in order for it to have the impact we want it to have, we have to focus our work on implementation. Last week, ISBE held a webinar on the evidence-based funding data verification process. We have added an instructional guide for the Evidence-Based Funding Enrollment Verification Tool, as well as the webinar recording and PowerPoint presentation, to the [Evidence-Based Funding webpage](#) (/ebf2018) (under "Explanatory Documents"). We know some of you could not join the webinar due to the number of participants reaching the maximum allowed. If you have any questions, please email [EBFhelp@isbe.net](mailto:EBFhelp@isbe.net) (mailto:EBFhelp@isbe.net). Please note that only **district superintendents** have access to the EBF enrollment data verification tool and are responsible for completing the enrollment data verification process for their district. We apologize for any confusion over access levels or responsibilities. District superintendents are encouraged to work with school principals as necessary. School principals and others are encouraged to remain aware of the process. We will continue to build relationships and engage in dialogue to make sure we are doing the right work together.

Thank you for all you do,

Tony



### UPCOMING ISBE DATES AND DEADLINES

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

**Nov. 8:** [FY 2019 Public Budget Hearing in Mt. Vernon](#) (<https://www.isbe.net/budget>)

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

**Nov. 10:** ISBE offices closed for Veterans' Day

**Nov. 14:** [School-Level Expenditure Reporting webinar](#) (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/37466742189821>

10979)

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

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


**Nov. 15:** Deadline to submit Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet


**Nov. 15:** Deadline to submit Student Health Data - Immunization in IWAS  
**Nov. 15:** Deadline to review 2017 Fall Enrollment Summary in the eReport Card  
**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. 17:** Deadline for entering KIDS ratings in KIDStech  
**Nov. 17:** Deadline to verify Evidence-Based Funding Enrollment  
**Nov. 23-24:** ISBE offices closed for Thanksgiving holiday  
**Nov. 30:** FY 2018 NCLB/ESSA Monitoring Instrument due in IWAS  
**Nov. 30:** FY 2018 NCLB/ESSA Title I Comparability Analysis due in IWAS  
**Dec. 12:** [Deadline to submit Arts Education Week Posters](https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IAEW-CONTEST-FORM.pdf) (<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IAEW-CONTEST-FORM.pdf>)

**Dec. 13:** [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>)  
**Dec. 14:** [Every Illinois Child Ready for Kindergarten Summit](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mastering-kids-summit-every-illinois-child-ready-for-kindergarten-tickets-39270297517) (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mastering-kids-summit-every-illinois-child-ready-for-kindergarten-tickets-39270297517>)  
**Dec. 25:** ISBE offices closed for Christmas Day  
**Jan. 1:** ISBE offices closed for New Year's Day  
**Jan. 12:** Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Spring 2018  
**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) (<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

## CULTURE & CLIMATE

### Assisting Students Displaced by Hurricane Maria

Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ensures educational protections for children and youth in homeless situations, including many who have lost their housing due to natural disasters. It provides stability and support for students by requiring all public schools to enroll eligible students immediately, assess their needs, and provide or refer them to additional services as needed. Barriers to enrollment and school attendance must be removed. Free lunch and fees waivers must be provided. Transportation to and from school must also be provided if requested by the student or parent. The LEA Homeless Liaison should work with the family and student to provide assistance in attaining medical exams and immunization. The [Lead Area Liaison](#)  ([/Documents/IL-Map-with-Contacts.pdf](#)) (LAL) should be contacted if additional support is needed for the student and their family.

LEAs should document all students who are enrolling because of displacement from their home due to a natural disaster. In order to provide additional assistance for the children and their families, the LAL will be collecting the enrollment data from LEAs within their area. The [National Center for Homeless Education brief](#)  ([http://nche.ed.gov/downloads/briefs/csds\\_admin.pdf](http://nche.ed.gov/downloads/briefs/csds_admin.pdf)) provides additional information and tips for assisting these students.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact State Homeless Coordinator Vicki Hodges at [vhodges@isbe.net](mailto:vhodges@isbe.net) (<mailto:vhodges@isbe.net>).

### Public Act 100-332

Effective August 25, 2017, [Public Act 100-332](http://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=100-0332) (<http://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=100-0332>) allows school districts and individuals who enroll homeless students to enter into agreements whereby the district may pay for housing assistance in lieu of providing transportation in cases where a student may be forced to reside outside of the school district. The purpose of the law is to allow a student experiencing homelessness or who will be experiencing homelessness to obtain secure housing within the district of

enrollment. A Housing Plan Checklist is being developed that will assist school districts and families that are exploring this option. Please check <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Homeless.aspx> (/Pages/Homeless.aspx) for updates. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Hodges at [vhodges@isbe.net](mailto:vhodges@isbe.net) (mailto:vhodges@isbe.net).

## EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

### Upcoming School-Level Expenditure Reporting Webinar

All Illinois school districts are required by ESSA beginning with school year 2018-19 to report per-pupil expenditure data at the district and school level, disaggregated by source of funds. ISBE is hosting an informational webinar at **1:30 p.m. on Nov. 14** for superintendents and their teams to learn more about the new requirements for the school-level expenditure reporting. [Registration](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3746674218982110979) (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3746674218982110979>) is now open.

Additional information about the new requirements and corresponding advisory group are available in a [letter](mailto:in) (mailto:in) previously sent to districts. For questions, please contact Sara R. Shaw at [sshaw@isbe.net](mailto:sshaw@isbe.net) (mailto:sshaw@isbe.net) or (217) 782-0249.

## BUDGET & FINANCE

### Evidence-Based Funding Enrollment Verification Process – Deadline Nov. 17

ISBE has added an instructional guide for the Evidence-Based Funding Enrollment Verification Tool, as well as a recording of and the PowerPoint presentation from the Nov. 2 EBF webinar, to the ISBE website at <https://www.isbe.net/ebf2018> (/ebf2018).

Please note that only **district superintendents** have access to the EBF enrollment data verification tool and are responsible for completing the enrollment data verification process for their district. All others are encouraged to remain aware of the process but are not required to take any action.

District superintendents should complete the first step in the data verification process by Friday, November 17. Non-completion will be interpreted as an endorsement of the data ISBE currently has.

- Please log into IWAS, access the eReportCard application, and click the new link in the menu at the left that says New! Evidence Based Funding Formula.
- Follow the instructions on the screen once you access the EBF tool.
- If all of your data matches what ISBE currently has, check the confirmation box at the bottom of the screen and then click the Save button.
- If your data does not match what ISBE currently has, ISBE will provide a second tool on Monday, Nov. 13, 2017 for you to submit your data. This second tool will be open through Friday, Nov. 17.

The funding formula builds upon itself year-over-year. ISBE wants to ensure we have accurate enrollment data, especially in this critical baseline year of the formula. Thank you in advance for your participation as we work together to ensure this first year of our historic new funding formula is a success and every school district receives complete and accurate EBF amounts as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please email [EBFhelp@isbe.net](mailto:EBFhelp@isbe.net) (mailto:EBFhelp@isbe.net). For questions about the enrollment data verification tool, you may call the ISBE Division of Data Strategies and Analytics at (217) 782-3950. For questions about reallocation of the fiscal year 2018 base funding minimum amounts from special education joint agreements to member school districts, you may call the ISBE Division of Funding and Disbursements at (217) 782-5256.

### Upcoming Public Hearings on FY 2019 Budget Recommendations

ISBE is hosting public hearings this fall to gather requests to inform ISBE's fiscal year 2019 budget recommendations for pre-K through 12th-grade educational service providers statewide. All individuals – including those attending a hearing in person – should submit their comments and stories by completing a budget request form (available at <http://www.isbe.net/budget> (<http://www.isbe.net/budget>)) and emailing the form to [isbeFY19@isbe.net](mailto:isbeFY19@isbe.net) (<mailto:isbeFY19@isbe.net>).

The two remaining public budget hearings for FY 2019 will take place in:

- **Mount Vernon – Wednesday, Nov. 8**, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Dr. Nick Osborne Primary Center (401 North 30th St.)
- **Chicago – Friday, Nov. 17**, 11 a.m. in Conference Room 16-503 at the Thompson Center (100 W. Randolph St.)

## RULES & WAIVERS

### Invitation to Comment on Rules

Three sets of proposed amendments recently reviewed by ISBE are now available for public comment. The proposals and a summary of the issues involved are available under [Proposed Rules and Amendments](#) (/Pages/Rules.aspx). Please submit any comments or suggestions to [rules@isbe.net](mailto:rules@isbe.net). The public comment period ends December 18. The rulemakings are Part 100 (Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Auditing), Part 375 (Student Records), and Part 425 (Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools).

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

### Final Deadline Approaching for Entering KIDS Ratings

Ratings for the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) for each kindergarten student in Illinois are required to be entered after the 40th scheduled day of school. The absolute deadline for entering and submitting these ratings in KIDStech is **4:30 p.m. on Nov. 17**.

### Upcoming 'Every Illinois Child Ready for Kindergarten' Summit

ISBE and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, with additional support from the Steans Family Foundation, invite you to join fellow kindergarten teachers, district KIDS contacts, and partners for a day of learning and sharing best practices on implementation of KIDS. A Cocktail & Networking Reception will take place from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 13. The Mastering KIDS Summit will be from 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 14.

Summit highlights include the following:

- Eliminating gaps in school readiness
- The power of observation
- Translating KIDS data into practice
- Meeting the needs of dual language learners
- Learning from peer teachers who piloted KIDS
- Best practices for using KIDS to engage families
- Ask a KIDS coach

[Register online by Dec. 1](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mastering-kids-summit-every-illinois-child-ready-for-kindergarten-tickets-39270297517) (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mastering-kids-summit-every-illinois-child-ready-for-kindergarten-tickets-39270297517>) to reserve your spot for this all-day workshop. Participation in the networking reception and summit are free. The keynote speaker is Dr. Ronald F. Ferguson, economist, researcher and lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the Harvard

Kennedy School. Hotel room scholarships will be available, with a limit of two per district, for registrants traveling 30 miles or more to the Hyatt Rosemont, Chicago.

## Call for Evaluators - Early Childhood Request for Proposals

Evaluators are being called for the following Early Childhood Request for Proposals: Prevention Initiative (PI) Birth to Age 3, Preschool for All (PFA) Ages 3-5, Preschool for All Expansion Model (PFAE) State.

Please complete [this survey](https://isbe-my.sharepoint.com/personal/mpolly_isbe_net/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?guestaccesstoken=Nako9VudKpAKDNzKdQ%2bjc4FKyODrmf9y3h4n1rvmSpQ%3d&docid=1_13713273979bd48e094b00abda80e3450&wdFormId=%7b7B7F84F6-1C27-4FAA-B6BC-D93F12B5EDF7%7d&action=formsubmit) (https://isbe-my.sharepoint.com/personal/mpolly\_isbe\_net/\_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?guestaccesstoken=Nako9VudKpAKDNzKdQ%2bjc4FKyODrmf9y3h4n1rvmSpQ%3d&docid=1\_13713273979bd48e094b00abda80e3450&wdFormId=%7b7B7F84F6-1C27-4FAA-B6BC-D93F12B5EDF7%7d&action=formsubmit) to apply. You are volunteering time and expertise to complete the evaluation of approximately 10 to 20 proposals. Questions may be forwarded to the Early Childhood Division at [earlychi@isbe.net](mailto:earlychi@isbe.net) (mailto:earlychi@isbe.net%E2%80%8B).

## Preschool for All and Preschool for All Expansion Request for Proposals Released

The Request for Proposals (RFPs) for Preschool for All and Preschool for All Expansion have been released and are located on the [ISBE Early Childhood website](#) (/Pages/RFPs.aspx). Proposals are due to ISBE no later than **4 p.m. January 12, 2018**. These are open competitive grants with funding beginning in FY 2019. Links to data, webinars, and other resources to assist communities, providers, and others in preparing for the FY 2019 re-compete can also be found on the Early Childhood page. For questions, please contact the Division of Early Childhood Education at (217) 524-4835.

## NUTRITION PROGRAMS

### Nov. 16 CACFP Webinar Focuses on Choosing Yogurts Lower in Added Sugars

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Team Nutrition initiative will present the second of a series of interactive, skills-building webinars on the updated Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) meal patterns on Nov. 16. Sponsoring organizations and CACFP program operators, including child care providers, are invited to participate. School nutrition professionals working with the pre-K meal pattern in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program may also find these webinars helpful and are welcome to attend.

The webinar series, titled "CACFP Halftime: Thirty on Thursdays," takes place on the third Thursday of each month and is offered in both English and Spanish. The English webinar is held from 1-1:30 p.m. and the Spanish webinar is held from 2-2:30 p.m. The webinars are recorded and made available at a later date on the [Team Nutrition website](https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/team-nutrition) (https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/team-nutrition).

The CACFP Halftime webinar on Nov. 16 will focus on how to "Choose Yogurts That Are Lower in Added Sugars" and will provide opportunities for the audience to practice looking at different yogurts to see if they meet meal pattern requirements. The audience will have the opportunity to submit questions to the webinar presenters. To register for the webinar, visit the [CACFP Halftime Webinar page](https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/cacfp-halftime-thirty-thursdays-training-webinar-series) (https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/cacfp-halftime-thirty-thursdays-training-webinar-series).

Questions about the CACFP Halftime Webinar Series can be sent to [teamnutrition@fns.usda.gov](mailto:teamnutrition@fns.usda.gov) (mailto:teamnutrition@fns.usda.gov). Certificates of participation are provided for those who attend the entire 30-minute webinar.

### Recall Notice Issued on Vegetable Products

Mann Packing of Salinas, Calif., voluntarily recalled some lots of minimally processed vegetable products on Oct. 19 because they may be contaminated with listeria monocytogenes. The recall has been expanded since that date to include additional product codes. Mann Packing is issuing this recall out of an abundance of caution. To date, public health officials have not reported any illnesses associated



with these products.

The recalled products were distributed throughout the United States and Canada with “best if used by” dates from Oct. 12 to Oct. 20 listed on the front of the packaging. Please contact your distributor or view the FDA recall notice in the link below for additional details about the affected lot codes.

### **Products provided through the USDA Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program are affected by this recall.**

Schools that received these products should have already been notified by their prime vendor with further instructions.

Questions for the U.S. Department of Agriculture can be directed to USDA Foods Feedback at (800) 466-6991. Questions for Mann Packing can be directed to its 24-hour consumer line at (888) 470-2681 or [veggiesmadeeasy.com/products](https://www.veggiesmadeeasy.com/products) (<https://www.veggiesmadeeasy.com/products-overview/>).

The Defense Logistics Agency point of contact for this activity is CPT Janas Gray, food safety officer, at (215) 737-2934 or [dscpconssafofc@dla.mil](mailto:dscpconssafofc@dla.mil) (<mailto:dscpconssafofc@dla.mil>). More information about this recall, a complete list of affected products, and a list of recalls associated with the Mann Packing recall can be found on the [FDA's website](https://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/MajorProductRecalls/ucm581921.htm) (<https://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/MajorProductRecalls/ucm581921.htm>).

### **Nominations Sought for Opportunity to Attend Produce Safety University**

ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division is looking for nominations to attend Produce Safety University (PSU), a one-week, all-expenses-paid training course offered to local school district partners. A limited number of Illinois school district partners may be nominated to attend.

Participants must have a current role in training school foodservice staff at the school district and school levels. Participants will be expected to teach others about the subject matter learned using the comprehensive training materials provided to all attendees.

Nominees are encouraged to select the nearest training in order to reduce time and cost of travel and facilitate regional networking. **Produce Safety University 2018 will be June 4-8 in Chicago.** Other dates and locations are March 19-23 in Davis, Calif.; April 16-20 in Atlanta; May 21-25 in Baltimore; and July 23-27 in Philadelphia.

If you are interested in being nominated to attend PSU, please submit a letter of intent, including approval from your district superintendent, to Roxanne Ramage ([rramage@isbe.net](mailto:rramage@isbe.net) (<mailto:rramage@isbe.net>)) as soon as possible but no later than Nov. 20. Approval from your superintendent is required due to PSU being a week-long commitment. Please email Roxanne Ramage or call (800) 545-7892 if you have questions.

More information about PSU can be found on the USDA Food and Nutrition Service: [Produce Safety site](https://www.fns.usda.gov/ofs/produce-safety) (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/ofs/produce-safety>).

### **USDA Foods Show and Conference Scheduled for Nov. 28 in Bloomington**

Registration has started for the USDA Foods Show and Conference, hosted by ISBE and the Illinois School Nutrition Association (ILSNA). The event is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Nov. 28 at the Parke Regency Hotel, 1413 Leslie Drive, in Bloomington.

The show includes educational sessions that qualify for training hours as well as the opportunity for school nutrition staff to see and taste new products. Attendees can earn up to 3.25 professional development continuing education units for the sessions.

Registration begins at 7:45 a.m., followed by a welcome session and the following topics: Illinois Commodity System, USDA Foods, Diverting USDA Foods to Processors, DOD Produce, USDA Food Buying Guide and the Recipe Analysis Worksheet, and an ISBE Update. The USDA Foods Show ends the day-long event from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

For more information and to register, visit the [ILSNA website](http://www.ilsna.net/) (http://www.ilsna.net/) today.

## CHARTER SCHOOLS

### Charter School Program – QSO – Cohort III Request for Proposals Available Nov. 1

The electronic Charter Schools Program - QSO Program Design and Initial Implementation Request for Proposals-Cohort III is available on Nov. 1 through ISBE's IWAS system. All responses must be submitted electronically to ISBE by **4 p.m. on Dec. 18**. This grant opportunity can provide up to \$950,000 to new charter school development teams to aid with design of the charter school and the initial implementation costs during the first two years of operation.

Any applicants interested in applying will need to submit the Letter of Intent to Apply Form in order to gain electronic access to the RFP. The Letter of Intent to Apply and further grant eligibility information can be found on the [Charter School Grant page](#) (/Pages/csGrantsRfps.aspx).

If you have questions, please email [charter@isbe.net](mailto:charter@isbe.net) (mailto:charter@isbe.net) or call Charter Schools at (312) 814-2220.

### Upcoming Fall Charter Startup Workshop

Attend the free **Fall Charter Startup Workshop** (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-charter-startup-workshop-tickets-39099185717>) on Saturday, Dec. 2, to explore how you can bring change to education in your community by launching an innovative charter public school.

The workshop, hosted by the Illinois Network of Charter Schools, will take place at Moving Everest Charter School, 416 N. Laramie Ave., Chicago, IL 60644, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. [Learn more and register for the Fall Charter Startup Workshop](#) (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-charter-startup-workshop-tickets-39099185717>). Contact Anne with questions at [alevybrown@incschools.org](mailto:alevybrown@incschools.org) ([https://incs-my.sharepoint.com/personal/alevybrown\\_incschools\\_org/Documents/Charter%20Growth%20-%20General/alevybrown%40incschools.org](https://incs-my.sharepoint.com/personal/alevybrown_incschools_org/Documents/Charter%20Growth%20-%20General/alevybrown%40incschools.org)).

## GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY TRANSPARENCY ACT

### Required FY 2018 Grantee Periodic Performance Reporting

The federal Uniform Guidance and GATA to a large extent are based on risk management and performance improvement. Both of these purposes are served by increased communication and collaboration between grantors and grantees. In recognition of this, both the Uniform Guidance and GATA require periodic performance reporting by grant recipients.

Another goal of GATA is to increase efficiencies by establishing uniform, standard non-redundant processes for the administration of grants. To this end, the Governor's Office of Management and Budget's GATA Unit has developed standard templates and protocols for the submission of periodic performance reports.

Periodic performance reports are required for all fiscal year 2018 grants administered by the State of Illinois unless specifically exempted. Exempted ISBE programs include Evidence-Based Funding, Mandated Categoricals, and Drivers Education.

The reports include information on the accomplishment of deliverables described in the grant, the status of performance measures, and the alignment of accomplishments to date with spending to date.



ISBE is implementing the periodic performance reporting requirement through an IWAS-based system that incorporates the required information fields. The new Grant Periodic Reporting System became available on Thursday, October 26, 2017. Most grant recipients are required to report quarterly. Some will be required to report monthly due to findings of elevated programmatic risk.

**Due to the delay in the implementation of the reporting system, the initial FY 2018 reporting period for all ISBE grantees will have a report date of October 31, 2017, and should include all activity from July 1, 2017, through October 31, 2017.**

Following this initial reporting period, all reporting periods will be based on calendar quarters or months. Quarterly reports are due within 30 days after the end of the reporting period. Monthly reports are due within 20 days following the end of the month covered by the report.

NOTE: This performance reporting is **in addition to** the regular fiscal reporting done through the Electronic Expenditure Reporting system.

To learn more about the new reporting system and your obligations, please view the recorded webinar that can be found in the “What’s New?” section at on [ISBE's GATA webpage](#) (/Pages/Grant-Accountability-and-Transparency-Act.aspx). If you have questions after viewing the recorded webinars and visiting the reporting system, please register to participate in the live webinar scheduled for November 1 that will cover the periodic reporting requirements and system as well as the implementation of risk-based conditions and provide a forum for questions. [Registration](#) (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2919081712115746817>) is open. Questions may also be submitted to the ISBE GATA administration staff at [GATA@ISBE.net](mailto:GATA@ISBE.net) (<mailto:GATA@ISBE.net>).

## IN BRIEF

### Classroom Opportunity

- Looking for a creative student project? The [Made By Milk contest](http://madebymilkcontest.com/contest-details/) (<http://madebymilkcontest.com/contest-details/>) asks a team of students to repurpose milk cartons into a work of art. Entries are due Nov. 15.

### Administrator Recognition

- Congrats to **Dr. Robert McBride**, principal of Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville, for receiving a [2017 Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding School Leadership](#) (<https://nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov/education-secretary-devos-announces-recipients-of-the-2017-terrel-h-bell-awards-for-outstanding-school-leadership/#.WfivFU0rldU>)!
- Congratulations to 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)

### Funding Opportunities

- Applications are due Dec. 8 for **KidsGardening's 2018 Youth Garden Grant** (<https://kidsgardening.org/2018-youth-garden-grant/>). Any nonprofit organization, public or private school, or youth program in the United States planning a new garden program or expanding an established one that serves at least 15 youth between the ages of 3 and 18 is eligible to apply.
- The School Nutrition Association, U.S. Apple Association, and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture are working together on **Apples4Ed** (<http://apples4ed.com/>). Schools can compete for healthy snacking program grants. Nominations close at the end of November.

- The **Illinois Energy Workforce Consortium** (<http://www.cewd.org/state-consortia/illinois.php>) is offering free materials and an opportunity to win one of three \$250 classroom grants. Email a photo and brief description of how you used the materials with students to [Illinois@consortia.getintoenergy.com](mailto:Illinois@consortia.getintoenergy.com) (mailto:Illinois@consortia.getintoenergy.com) with the subject line “Class Grant Entry.” The deadline to submit entries is Jan. 26, 2018. The drawing will take place Feb. 2, 2018, with award presentations occurring in March 2018.

## Professional Development

- The **National Board Resource Center (NBRC)** (<https://nbrc.illinoisstate.edu/>) is seeking administrators interested in a research-based ongoing professional development opportunity. There are currently 40 National Board Professional Development Schools in Illinois led by administrator leaders. The NBRC is expanding this program to include an additional 25 schools/districts to take part in this opportunity during the 2018-19 school year. This program is school based and includes several research-based instructional strategies that focus on implementing effective teaching approaches that nurture critical thinking. Application deadline is March 26, 2018. Call Debra Kasperski at (309) 438-1833 for more information or to set up an appointment.

## 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) (<http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx>).