

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

 [Printable PDF](#)

November 14, 2017



Hello,


As a result of many years of really hard work, we now have the opportunity to provide even more support to students and families in Illinois. We have a system of funding for schools that is more fair than in the past, the Illinois Every Student Succeeds Act plan is officially approved by the U.S. Department of Education, and we have new Illinois state laws encouraging innovation and creativity in education. We truly have made remarkable progress together, and we are ready to help lead Illinois to ensure all of our students are future-ready.

It is really important to me that we at ISBE strengthen our internal connections and spend time discussing our work so that we are best positioned to serve districts and educational agencies in your daily efforts to maximize opportunities for students and families. ISBE staff will deepen our capacity by spending the day together this Thursday, Nov. 16. This time is a chance to weave together all the new opportunities, connect with

colleagues doing similar work, and discuss how to leverage our skills and talents in the best way possible. The ISBE office will be closed for the day. If you have questions, please visit www.isbe.net (<http://www.isbe.net/>) to see if your answer lies within our website. We will be back in the office at 8 a.m. Nov. 17. We appreciate your understanding as we improve our ability to support you in taking care of the whole child, the whole school, and the whole community.

As a reminder, the Evidence-Based Funding Enrollment Verification process is ongoing with an important deadline this Friday, Nov. 17. User guides for the Verification Tool and the Reconciliation Tool and a webinar recording are available on the [Evidence-Based Funding webpage \(/ebf2018\)](#). Please note that only and all **district superintendents** are responsible for completing the enrollment data verification process. We appreciate your diligence and feedback in ensuring we have accurate enrollment data for this critical baseline year of evidence-based funding. Our dialogue has helped us understand and adjust to issues throughout these initial months of implementing this historic new funding formula. If you have any questions, please email EBFhelp@isbe.net (<mailto:EBFhelp@isbe.net>). We need to hear your questions and comments in order to continue improving our service and support.

We rely on your stories and testimony to advocate for Illinois' students and communities. Our third and [final public hearing \(/Lists/News/NewsDisplay.aspx?ID=1184\)](#) on the fiscal year 2019 budget is this Friday, Nov. 17, in Chicago. Your participation in the budget process helps ISBE communicate the real needs of Illinois' students to the General Assembly. ISBE makes its budget recommendations based on the following principles:

- Alignment to the [Board's goals](#)  (/Documents/mission_statement.pdf),
- Advocacy for the needs of children across the state as identified from requests from the field, and

Quick Links

[Data Strategies & Analytics](#)
[Budget & Finance](#)
[Illinois Bicentennial Celebration](#)
[Illinois Department of Public Health](#)
[College & Career](#)
[Culture & Climate](#)
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- Recognition of the need for universal and differentiated support to meet the unique needs of each and every child in the State of Illinois in a public system.

Whether or not you are able to attend a hearing in person, you should submit your 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>). I urge educators, administrators, students, families, and community leaders to attend the budget hearings and share their ideas, priorities, and concerns. Find information on past budgets at <http://www.isbe.net/budget> (<http://www.isbe.net/budget>).

We often hear stories at our budget hearings from some of the many Illinois students involved in the National FFA Organization. Students have spoken about the leadership opportunities FFA has opened for them and how experiences teaching their peers have helped them to build confidence. Agriculture teachers have shared how they are not just educating future farmers, but future engineers, problem solvers, and leaders. Testimony like this helps ISBE articulate the value and impact of well-rounded educational programs.

I would like to recognize the Illinois FFA chapters, student members, alumni, and advisers for their accomplishments at the recent 2017 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Illinois students received awards in a variety of areas, including Building Communities; Dairy Production Placement; Equine Science Entrepreneurship; and Power, Structural, and Technical Systems. [View the complete list of awardees](http://www.agriculturaleducation.org/LinkPages/Messaging/msg_MessageDisplay.asp?MsgID=8852) (http://www.agriculturaleducation.org/LinkPages/Messaging/msg_MessageDisplay.asp?MsgID=8852). Thank you to our Illinois FFA chapters for their commitment to service, and congratulations to all who played a part in this success!

Have a great week!

Tony

UPCOMING ISBE DATES AND DEADLINES

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

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. 15: Deadline to submit Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheet

Nov. 15: Deadline to submit Student Health Data - Immunization 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. 17: Deadline for entering KIDS ratings in KIDStech

Nov. 17: Deadline to verify Evidence-Based Funding Enrollment

Nov. 17: Deadline for 2017 Fall Enrollment Verification in IWAS

Nov. 17: Evidence-Based Funding Enrollment Verification deadline

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
Feb. 16: Early Childhood RFP Call for Evaluators window closes
March 12-18: 2018 Illinois Arts Education Week


DATA STRATEGIES & ANALYTICS

2017 Fall Enrollment Summary Deadline Approaching

The 2017 Fall Enrollment Summary for the 2018 Report Card and fiscal year 2019 evidence-based funding (EBF) is available for review and verification in IWAS. The deadline to review and verify your district's 2017 fall enrollment must be completed no later than noon on Nov. 17. Please review the 2017 Fall Enrollment Summary in the e-Report Card application in IWAS as soon as possible to make sure your district has high-quality data on the 2018 Illinois Report Card and accurate EBF amounts for FY 2019*.

Please make any corrections to your 2017 Fall Enrollment via the Student Information System. The updated report will be posted daily before 11 a.m. Non-completion will be interpreted as an endorsement of the data ISBE currently has.

If you have any questions about the 2017 Fall Enrollment process, please do not hesitate to reach out via reportcard@isbe.net (mailto:reportcard@isbe.net) or (217) 782-3950.

*Please note this 2017 Fall Enrollment Summary is different from the **Evidence-Based Funding Enrollment Data Verification**  (/Documents/EBF-Verification-Tool-Announcement-11-1-2017.pdf) currently open. (See details below in Budget and Finance section.) This 2017 Fall Enrollment Summary asks every school district to verify the current school year enrollment counts to serve as the basis for evidence-based funding for FY 2019. The Evidence-Based Funding Enrollment Data Verification, however, asks every school district to verify the past fall enrollment counts for 2016, 2015, and 2014 to serve as the basis for the first year of evidence-based funding in FY 2018. If you have any questions about evidence-based funding, email **EBFhelp@isb.net** (mailto:EBFhelp@isb.net).

BUDGET & FINANCE

Evidence-Based Funding Enrollment Verification Tool Now Available

The Evidence-Based Funding Reconciliation Tool is now open and available for school districts to submit corrections to the enrollment counts in the Verification Tool. See the next section for additional details on the Verification Tool. **The Reconciliation Tool will be available until 11:59 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17.** If there were students missing from your enrollment counts in the Verification Tool that you believe were left out in error, you can submit the student IDs of those missing students using the template provided by the Reconciliation Tool. Please note that only **district superintendents** have access to the EBF enrollment data Reconciliation and Verification Tools and are responsible for completing the enrollment data verification process for their district.

The Reconciliation Tool can be found after clicking on the "Submit Corrections" button in the bottom of the Verification Tool (located in IWAS, in the E-Report Card application, the "New! Evidence-Based Funding" link on the left). A user guide outlining the above steps and how to use the Reconciliation Tool is available at <https://www.isbe.net/ebf2018> (/ebf2018) under "Other Resources."

Non-completion will be interpreted as an endorsement of the enrollment counts ISBE currently has.

Please note that districts that certified their enrollment counts before 4:30 p.m. on Nov. 8 need to review and **recertify** due to duplicate enrollment counts identified between Kindergarten and Special Education Pre-K. Please see the notice in IWAS and at <https://www.isbe.net/ebf2018> (/ebf2018) under “Other Resources” for more information.

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

Last week, ISBE 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 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, Nov. 17**. Non-completion will be interpreted as an endorsement of the data ISBE currently has. Districts will have the opportunity to certify enrollment counts prior to Dec. 1, but the opportunity to submit student IDs for reconciliation closes at **11:59 p.m. on Nov. 17**.

- 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 has provided an EBF Enrollment Reconciliation Tool – see previous section– for you to submit your student IDs. This tool is 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). For questions about the Enrollment Verification Tool, you may call the ISBE Division of Data Strategies and Analytics at (217) 782-3950. For questions about reallocation of the FY 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.

Public Hearings on FY 2019 Budget Recommendations

ISBE has hosted two public hearings so far this fall to gather requests to inform ISBE’s FY 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).

The last public budget hearings for FY 2019 will take place in Chicago on **Friday, Nov. 17** at 11 a.m. in Conference Room 16-503 at the Thompson Center (100 W. Randolph St.).

ILLINOIS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Seeking Nominations for Illinois Bicentennial Honor 200 Veterans

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Illinois Bicentennial Committee will honor the work of 200 veterans from across the State of Illinois whose contributions are above and beyond the call of duty as they dedicate their time and energy to assist their fellow veterans and service members. To nominate a veteran, please visit the [Honor 200 website](https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/Pages/Illinois-Bicentennial-Honor-200-Veterans.aspx) (<https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/Pages/Illinois-Bicentennial-Honor-200-Veterans.aspx>) and submit a nomination form. The deadline to submit nominations is July 31, 2018.

Illinois REALTORS® Bicentennial Essay Contest Opens Nov. 15

The Illinois REALTORS® Bicentennial Task Force is launching its "Home is Where the Heart Is" essay contest. Twenty-three high school students across Illinois have a chance to win a monetary scholarship and be a part of the historic 200th birthday of the State of Illinois.

Students are asked to submit a minimum of 500 words (maximum 700 words) on what this theme means to them. All essays will be judged based on adherence to this theme, originality, creativity, grammar, punctuation, and spelling. The contest is open to Illinois high school students in grades 9 through 12 attending public, private, or home schools.

The contest submission deadline is Feb. 15, 2018. In addition to the monetary award, scholarship winners will also receive statewide recognition from Illinois REALTORS® and the State of Illinois Bicentennial Commission. Download the [Illinois Bicentennial Essay Contest Submission form](https://www.cognitoforms.com/IllinoisAssociationOfREALTORS1/HomelsWhereTheHeartIsBicentennialEssayContest) (<https://www.cognitoforms.com/IllinoisAssociationOfREALTORS1/HomelsWhereTheHeartIsBicentennialEssayContest>) for complete requirements and eligibility.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

2017 Deadline Approaching for School Lead in Water Testing

The Illinois Department of Public Health has issued a reminder that all schools constructed prior to January 1, 1987, have a lead in water testing deadline of December 31, 2017. Please email questions to dph.leadh2o@illinois.gov (<mailto:dph.leadh2o@illinois.gov>) or visit the [IDPH Lead in Water website](http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/lead-in-water) (<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/lead-in-water>) for more information.


COLLEGE & CAREER


Seeking Feedback on Agriculture Education Programs

The Illinois State Board of Education is seeking your opinions regarding agriculture education programs within your district. Your responses will provide key feedback to the state's Agriculture Education Shortage task force and help inform its recommendations to the State Board. Please take time to complete the [10-question survey](https://illinoisstateboe.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e3WqTMJ8ooVWIK1) (https://illinoisstateboe.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e3WqTMJ8ooVWIK1). Estimated completion time is less than three minutes. Please complete the survey on or before **Dec. 7**.

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) 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>).

Public Act 100-332

Effective August 25, 2017, [Public Act 100-332](#) (<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 our [Homeless page](#) (/Pages/Homeless.aspx) for updates. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Hodges at vhodges@isbe.net (<mailto:vhodges@isbe.net>).

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. The public comment period ends Dec. 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%E2%80%8B](mailto:earlychi@isbe.net)).

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. Jan. 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>). Certificates of participation are provided for those who attend the entire 30-minute webinar.

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 on our [GATA page](#) ([/Pages/Grant-Accountability-and-Transparency-Act.aspx](#)). Questions may be submitted to the ISBE GATA administration staff at GATA@ISBE.net (<mailto:GATA@ISBE.net>).

ILLINOIS EXECUTIVE MANSION ASSOCIATION

Cards for Heroes

First Lady Diana Rauner invites students, teachers, administrators, staff, and communities to share holiday cheer with our men and women in uniform. Send a card by **Nov. 20** and it will be sent to those who are serving our country. Cards can be mailed to USO of Illinois – Cards for Heroes, 333 S. Wabash Ave., 16th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604. Alternatively, you can drop them off with your local [Veteran Service Officer](#) (<https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/Pages/default.aspx>).

If you have questions, please contact mansionassociation@gmail.com (mailto:mandionassociation@gmail.com).

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) (<https://nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov/education-secretary-devos-announces-recipients-of-the-2017-terrel-h-bell-awards-for-outstanding-school-leadership/#.WfivFU0rldU>)!

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.

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

- Union School District 81** (<http://www.theherald-news.com/2017/11/13/union-d-81-to-reimburse-property-taxes-to-residents/a3ivgsj/>) has continued their fiscally conservative practices by reimbursing homeowners a portion of their property taxes for the second straight year!

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>).