

# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

 [Printable PDF](#)

November 21, 2017



Hello,

I want you to know how deeply I appreciate your work to create the conditions for all of our students to thrive. In the face of change and uncertainty, you have shown incredible resourcefulness and commitment to understanding your students' unique needs and serving the whole child.

With your partnership, we are on the right path to provide safe, rigorous, and well-rounded learning environments for all students. Thank you for your readiness to make connections, collaborate, and learn from schools and districts with different strengths and challenges. Thank you for being in dialogue with us so that we can continue to improve our service and support. And thank you for sharing your stories and testimony, and joining with us in advocating for students, families, and communities across our state. Together we can build inclusive systems wherein all people are socially and economically secure. I truly believe in the role of healthy public schools as the center of healthy communities.

As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, we recognize that many do not have access to food. Our children and families struggle with food insecurity regularly. I encourage you to share resources to help the families in your communities that do not have as much food as they need. The [FoodFinder](https://foodfinder.us/) (<https://foodfinder.us/>) website and smartphone app make it easier for children and their families facing hunger to find free food resources. This tool was developed by Jack Griffin, a Georgia high school student at the time, in response to the needs in his community. He and others like him who are making a difference in their communities give us another reason to be thankful. [Illinois Hunger Coalition](http://www.ilhunger.org/home.aspx) (<http://www.ilhunger.org/home.aspx>), [No Kid Hungry](https://www.nokidhungry.org/) (<https://www.nokidhungry.org/>), and [Rise and Shine Illinois](http://riseandshineillinois.org/) (<http://riseandshineillinois.org/>) offer more information about food insecurity, as well as resources for connecting children and families to the healthy food they need.

ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division administers a number of federally funded programs in Illinois, all aimed at making sure our children receive healthy meals so they can succeed in the classroom and beyond. Visit the division's [webpage](/Pages/Nutrition-and-Wellness.aspx) (</Pages/Nutrition-and-Wellness.aspx>) to learn more about the [National School Lunch Program](/Pages/National-School-Lunch-Program.aspx) (</Pages/National-School-Lunch-Program.aspx>), [School Breakfast Program](/Pages/School-Breakfast-Program.aspx) (</Pages/School-Breakfast-Program.aspx>), [Child and Adult Care Food Program](/Pages/Child-Adult-Care-Food-Program.aspx) (</Pages/Child-Adult-Care-Food-Program.aspx>), and [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program](/Pages/Fresh-Fruit-and-Vegetable-Program.aspx) (</Pages/Fresh-Fruit-and-Vegetable-Program.aspx>). We are in the midst of the holiday season, but it is not too early to think about summer. Many children rely on free and reduced-priced meals during the school year and do not have access to healthy meals when school is out for the summer. Visit the [Summer Food Service Program webpage](/Pages/Summer-Food-Service-Program.aspx) (</Pages/Summer-Food-Service-Program.aspx>) for more information about Summer Meals and to help identify sponsors and meal sites.

Thank you for all you do! Happy Thanksgiving!

## Quick Links

- [Budget & Finance](#)
- [Nonpublic Schools](#)
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- [Rules & Waivers](#)
- [Early Childhood Education](#)
- [Nutrition Programs](#)
- [Illinois Bicentennial Celebration](#)
- [Illinois Department of Public Health](#)
- [Grant Accountability Transparency Act In Brief](#)

## 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. 21:** Evidence-Based Funding Enrollment Reconciliation submission 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. 5:** [5Essentials survey window opens](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/5Essentials-Survey.aspx)

(<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/5Essentials-Survey.aspx>)

**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. 2:** Nonpublic Application and Recognition window closes

**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>)

**Jan. 31:** FY 2018 IDEA Excess Cost worksheets due to the IDEA grant coordinators

**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

## BUDGET & FINANCE

### Evidence-Based Funding Enrollment Reconciliation Submission Deadline Extended



The Evidence-Based Funding Reconciliation Tool **will be available until 11:59 p.m. today**. 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 on 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 on the [EBF Funding Enrollment page](/Pages/ebfenrollment.aspx) (/Pages/ebfenrollment.aspx).

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

A [frequently asked questions document](/Documents/EBF_Collection_FAQs.pdf) (/Documents/EBF\_Collection\_FAQs.pdf) for the Evidence-Based Funding Enrollment Data Verification and Reconciliation Process is now available on the ISBE website.

### New Evidence-Based Funding Resources Available

New EBF resources are now available, including a [Quick Guide to Base Enrollment](#)  (/Documents/Enrollment\_Definitions\_Guide.pdf) and a [Technical Guide to Base Enrollment](#)  (/Documents/Enrollment\_Technical\_Guide.pdf), as well as three new webinars for “[Understanding the Evidence-Based Formula Distribution Calculation](#) (/Pages/EvidenceBasedFunding.aspx).” The webinar modules include:

- Module I: Determining a District’s Adequacy Target
- Module II: Determining a District’s Local Resources
- Module III: Distribution of State Funds

Please contact [EBFhelp@isbe.net](mailto:EBFhelp@isbe.net) (mailto:EBFhelp@isbe.net) with any questions.

## NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Nonpublic Application for Recognition and Calendar Now Open

The Nonpublic Application for Recognition and Calendar is now open in IWAS for nonpublic schools needing to renew recognition. The system will be open until midnight on Jan. 2. Schools are advised to check their status after they click on the submit button. "Pending ROE Admin Approval" indicates the application is sent to the ROE/ISC office, which occurs before coming to ISBE. Schools seeing this message will want to check back in IWAS to see if the ROE/ISC has approved the applications (which are then forwarded on to ISBE) or the ROE/ISC has returned it to the school for edits. An application is **not** completely submitted until the status reads "Received by ISBE" or "Entered by ISBE Administrator." Any other status message indicates the school has not yet been successful in submitting its recognition renewal. For further information, contact Dr. Gary Greene at [ggreene@isbe.net](mailto:ggreene@isbe.net) (mailto:ggreene@isbe.net) or (312) 814-3985.

## 5ESSENTIALS

### 5Essentials Survey Release Update

The survey release has been pushed back to **Dec. 5** due to an error in the data securely uploaded to the UChicago Impact System. We apologize for the delay and know many schools and districts had planned for the release on Nov. 15. Due to the delay, we are reopening the opt-in process so that additional districts may indicate their participation in the survey for this school year. If you wish to participate, and have not already indicated previously, please complete our [extension survey](#) ([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeDni2bFu7nE7XkC5jUFAOAtAEr\\_C5jQsr2kyG3FcyjYUV6NQ/viewform?usp=send\\_for](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeDni2bFu7nE7XkC5jUFAOAtAEr_C5jQsr2kyG3FcyjYUV6NQ/viewform?usp=send_for)) by close of business on **Nov. 27**.

## COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

### Seeking Educator Feedback on College and Career Pathway Endorsement Competencies

Feedback is being sought on draft competencies for College and Career Pathway Endorsements as part of the effort to implement the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act. These competencies were developed by public-private committees in four areas: Finance and Business Services, Health Sciences, Information Technology, and Manufacturing and Engineering. The competency-mapping process will be extended to additional sectors starting in the spring. Feedback collected via this survey will be incorporated into edits and evaluation of the drafted statement, and educator voices are essential.

The [survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PWRActEndorsementCompetencies) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PWRActEndorsementCompetencies>) is open until Jan. 15. Please feel free to share the survey with colleagues and networks. Please contact Andrea Messing-Mathie at [amessingmathie@niu.edu](mailto:amessingmathie@niu.edu) (<mailto:amessingmathie@niu.edu?subject=re%3A%20PWR%20CCPE%20Survey%20Question%20>) or Leah Moschella at [lmoschella@jff.org](mailto:lmoschella@jff.org) (<mailto:lmoschella@jff.org?subject=re%3A%20PWR%20CCPE%20Survey%20Question>) with any questions.

## 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](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**.

## RULES & WAIVERS

### Notice of Completed Rulemaking

Please be advised that two sets of amendments recently adopted by ISBE became effective Nov. 3. Changes have been posted under [Rules Currently in Effect](/Pages/Rules-Currently-in-Effect.aspx) (</Pages/Rules-Currently-in-Effect.aspx>).

- Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision). See Sections 1.710, 1.720, and 1.737
- Part 23 (Standards for School Support Personnel Endorsements). See Section 23.150
- Part 25 (Educator Licensure). See Sections 25.25.337 and 25.430.
- Part 30 (Programs for the Preparation of Principals in Illinois). See Section 30.70.
- Part 75 (Agricultural Education). See Sections 75.500, 75.510, 75.520, 75.530, 75.540, 75.550, 75.560.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

### 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) (</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.

### Early CHOICES New Online Learning Module Now Available

Early CHOICES is proud to announce a new online [learning module](http://www.eclre.org/good-to-know/inclusion-policy-statement-module.aspx) (<http://www.eclre.org/good-to-know/inclusion-policy-statement-module.aspx>) that reviews the Federal Policy Statement on Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs that was issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Education on Sept. 14, 2015. This online learning module expands the basic points from *Understanding LRE* and explores up-to-date information and research.

The new module has four sections:

- Introduction to the policy statement: Overview of what inclusion is and why it is important.
- Strategies to overcome challenges to inclusion within early childhood programs.

- Partnerships to build a culture of inclusion.
- Summary of the module.

Each section includes activities and additional resources to consider as you reflect on the ways that inclusion impacts your practices. A Reflection Guide can be downloaded to record your reflections and any resources you'd like to further explore. A Resource Guide with all of the documents and links used in the modules is also available.

## Seeking Applications for 'Outstanding Practices in Inclusion' Award

Early CHOICES and the Early Childhood LRE Stakeholders Consortium are seeking applications for the *Outstanding Practices in Inclusion* award presented at the next Sharing A Vision Conference in 2019. Visit the [Early CHOICES webpage](http://www.eclre.org/good-to-know/outstanding-practices-in-inclusion.aspx) (<http://www.eclre.org/good-to-know/outstanding-practices-in-inclusion.aspx>) for more information about how to apply. A commitment to apply and supporting evidence form is due by Dec. 22. Please email [inclusion@eclre.org](mailto:inclusion@eclre.org) (<mailto:inclusion@eclre.org>) with any questions.

## 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 the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (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.

The Mastering KIDS Summit is open to any educator who would like to register. While the content is intended primarily for teachers and administrators in Illinois public schools, all kindergarten teachers and school administrators who would like to better understand uses of KIDS Assessment and KIDS data are also welcome to register.

## NUTRITION PROGRAMS

### Registration Underway for Free Healthier Meals Cooking Classes

ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division is partnering with three colleges across the state to offer free Healthier Meals Cooking Classes. 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. Space is limited!

Next up is “Baking and Whole Grains” at Kendall College in Chicago, offered twice on Dec. 9 and again on Dec. 10. The course is also offered in Springfield in partnership with Lincoln Land Community College and in Centralia at Kaskaskia College. Classes are scheduled in February, March, and April. The course is worth four Continuing Education Units.

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. 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.”

## 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>) and submit a nomination form. The deadline to submit nominations is July 31, 2018.

### Illinois REALTORS® Bicentennial Essay Contest

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 February 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.cognitofrms.com/IllinoisAssociationOfREALTORS1/HomeIsWhereTheHeartIsBicentennialEssayContest>) 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) (<mailto:dph.leadh2o@illinois.gov>) or visit the [IDPH Lead in Water website](#)

(<file:///C:/Users/mgriffin/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/Temporary%20Internet%20Files/Content.Outlook/S24JL2VW/at%20http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/lead-in-water>) for more information.

## 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 the [GATA page](#) (/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. [Register now for this webinar](#) (/Pages/Grant-Accountability-and-Transparency-Act.aspx). 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

### Student Recognition

- Congratulations to all of the schools and students participating in the [McDonald's Thanksgiving Parade](#) (<https://www.chicagofestivals.org/2017-mcdonalds-thanksgiving-parade-marching-bands/>) on Nov. 23 in Chicago!

### 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>)!

## 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.

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