

# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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November 28, 2017



Hello,

When I visit communities across the state, I see how you, as educators and leaders, have inspired and empowered Illinois students to make meaningful local contributions. In addition to all you do for the children in your schools and districts, your investments outside of school – whether through volunteer service, donations, leadership, or advocacy – strengthen Illinois communities. As we celebrate #ILGive and #GivingTuesday today, thank you for your generosity. Check out [www.ilgive.com](http://www.ilgive.com) (<https://www.ilgive.com/>) if you are looking other ways to invest in your communities.

We understand that people across Illinois are situated in very different ways, some with opportunities afforded to them and others who have had opportunities stripped away. Equity to me includes access and outcome. Our new funding system takes an equity-centered approach. How near or far a district is from their Adequacy

Target gives us a common language to better understand and articulate our districts' different starting points and the relationship between fiscal and academic solvency.

We are completing the Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) enrollment verification process. Thank you for your diligence throughout this process and for continuing to share your feedback and send in your questions. We have updated our [Evidence-Based Funding Frequently Asked Questions](/Pages/state-funding-and-forecasting-faqs.aspx) (/Pages/state-funding-and-forecasting-faqs.aspx) to reflect the inquiries we have received, including questions related to distribution calculation, enrollment, and special education.

There is no mandated connection between EBF and ESSA. However, these historic shifts in Illinois' public education landscape present opportunities to coordinate our funding and school support systems, treating schools and students holistically. One example of overlap between these two systems is Site-Based Expenditure Reporting.

ESSA requires all districts to report per-pupil expenditure data at the district level and at the school level, disaggregated by source of funds, beginning with school year 2018-19 data. Recently, ISBE, the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA), and the Advisory Group facilitator Afton Partners joined with Superintendent Bartelt from Bloomingdale School District 13, Superintendent Twomey from Macomb School District 185, and Superintendent Webb from Goreville CUSD 1 to hold an "Introduction to Site-Based Expenditure Reporting" webinar on Nov. 14. Thank you to IASA, our superintendent panel, and the more than 200 school districts that participated. The webinar gives an overview of the ESSA requirement, the Advisory Group's work to date and next steps, and what districts can do now to start preparing. You can find the [webinar slides](/Documents/District-Leaders-Introductory-Training.pdf) (/Documents/District-Leaders-Introductory-Training.pdf), [recording](#)

## Quick Links

- [Rules & Waivers](#)
- [Special Education Services](#)
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- [Nonpublic Schools](#)
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(<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/6818418336759441409>), and [Questions & Answers document](#) (/Documents/District-Leaders-Site-Based-Intro-QA.pdf) on the Site-Based Expenditure Reporting section of our [ESSA webpage](#) (/essa). This is just the start of ISBE's work to support schools in implementing Site-Based Expenditure Reporting.

Neither EBF nor ESSA dictates how districts must spend their general funds. Clearer and more transparent financial information across districts will allow local leaders to make data-driven decisions for the benefit of children.

Data from the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS), too, will allow us to advocate for equity in new ways. KIDS empowers Illinois with reliable, comparable data on students' strengths and opportunities when they enter kindergarten. We then can identify where more resources are needed within schools and communities so that we can provide all children with the same opportunities in Illinois.

We are gearing up for the first [Mastering KIDS Summit](#) (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mastering-kids-summit-every-illinois-child-ready-for-kindergarten-tickets-39270485078>) on Thursday, Dec. 14 in Rosemont. Kindergarten teachers, district KIDS contacts, and partners are invited to participate in this exciting day of learning and sharing best practices. The summit will include sessions on eliminating gaps in school readiness, the power of observation, translating KIDS data into practice, and meeting the needs of dual language learners. Participants will also be able to connect with KIDS coaches to ask questions, and share feedback about how ISBE can continue providing the training and resources districts need to be successful in implementing KIDS. Find more information about the summit below. [Register online](#) (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mastering-kids-summit-every-illinois-child-ready-for-kindergarten-tickets-39270485078>) by Dec. 6. Thank you to our partners, the Robert R. McCormick Foundation and the Steans Family Foundation, for making this summit possible.

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>) or call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663.

**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>)

**Dec. 12:** [Deadline to submit Arts Education Week Posters](#) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Arts-Week.aspx>)

**Dec. 13:** [Illinois State Board of Education meeting](#) (<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>)

**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. 12:** Deadline to submit FY 2019 Preschool For All and Preschool For All Expansion RFPs

**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>)

**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

## RULES & WAIVERS

### Public Act 100-465 and Active Waivers

In addition to funding formula changes, some non-funding statutory provisions within the Illinois School Code were modified or repealed upon enactment of [Public Act 100-465](http://ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=1947&GAID=14&GA=100&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=105288&SessionID=91&SpecSess=) (http://ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?

DocNum=1947&GAID=14&GA=100&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=105288&SessionID=91&SpecSess=). Please note all active waivers are currently being reviewed to evaluate how they may have been impacted by Public Act 100-465. Staff in ISBE's Regulatory Support Division will be reaching out to any district with a current waiver that may be impacted by the changes brought about by this new legislation. We encourage all districts with active waivers to review this Public Act to determine how it may affect any future waivers submitted on behalf of districts. If you have any questions regarding the waiver process, please contact the agency waiver coordinator, Kristy Jones, at [kjones@isbe.net](mailto:kjones@isbe.net) (mailto:kjones@isbe.net).

### 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.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

### National Census of Visually Impaired/Legally Blind Students

The Chicago Lighthouse Illinois Instructional Materials Center, our state liaison with the American Printing House for the Blind, is in the process of contacting parents/guardians of Illinois students with visual impairments in order to comply with FERPA requirements governing the listing of individual visually impaired/legally blind students in a national census. This is known as the Federal Quota Registration process. Federal funds for the production of educational materials for students who are eligible as legally blind are allocated annually based upon completion of this national census. Direct communications to parents/guardians and special educators who refer qualified students to the services of the Illinois Instructional Materials Center are currently underway. Completion of the consent process and subsequent inclusion in the census is requested before March 1, 2018.

Your awareness is appreciated in the event that questions arise from parents/guardians or educators. Questions may be directed to Greg Polman, the Ex Officio Trustee and supervisor of the Federal Quota Registration process for Illinois, at [greg.polman@chicagolighthouse.org](mailto:greg.polman@chicagolighthouse.org) (mailto:greg.polman@chicagolighthouse.org).

## BUDGET & FINANCE

### New Evidence-Based Funding Resources Available

New EBF resources are now available including an updated [FAQ \(/Pages/state-funding-and-forecasting-faqs.aspx\)](/Pages/state-funding-and-forecasting-faqs.aspx), a [Quick Guide to Base Enrollment \( /Documents/Enrollment\\_Definitions\\_Guide.pdf\)](/Documents/Enrollment_Definitions_Guide.pdf) and a [Technical Guide to Base Enrollment \( /Documents/Enrollment\\_Technical\\_Guide.pdf\)](/Documents/Enrollment_Technical_Guide.pdf), as well as three new webinars for “[Understanding the Evidence-Based Formula Distribution Calculation \(/Pages/EvidenceBasedFunding.aspx\)](/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 been successful yet 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 participate in the survey for this school year. If you wish to participate, 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

[Imoschella@jff.org](mailto:Imoschella@jff.org) (mailto:Imoschella@jff.org?subject=re%3A%20PWR%20CCPE%20Survey%20Question) with any questions.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

### 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. 6](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.

### 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.

### 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>) 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.

## 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" at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Child-Adult-Care-Food-Program.aspx> (/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."

## 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 Category, 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. You can [register for the webinar here](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2919081712115746817) (https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2919081712115746817). 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

### 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>).