

# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

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December 12, 2017



Hello,

High school students across the state continue to demonstrate outstanding academic achievement. Congratulations to the 2018-19 Illinois State Scholars honored by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission! The Illinois Student Assistance Commission recognizes Illinois high school students who perform in the top half of their class and/or score at or above the 95th percentile on the ACT or SAT. [See the complete list of scholars](http://www.isac.org/students/before-college/college-career-planning/state-scholar/index.html) (<http://www.isac.org/students/before-college/college-career-planning/state-scholar/index.html>) .

Our high school students are also excelling as leaders in their communities. The Pittsfield FFA chapter was recognized as the 2017 National Premier Chapter in the Building Communities category at the National FFA Convention. Their “Heroes Among Us” project honored active-duty service members. Pittsfield FFA members created and displayed aluminum street signs near the local courthouse with names of local service members who have been deployed. The chapter also collaborated with the City of Pittsfield to plant more than 150 trees, leading to a “Tree City USA” designation by the Arbor Day Foundation.

I look forward to seeing more examples of students empowered to play a role in strengthening their communities. I am excited by the opportunities across the state for students to gain skills, build relationships, and connect to real-world challenges.

Students at O’Fallon Township High School are developing math skills using real-world applications. Math teacher Dr. Kelly Remijan teamed up with Illinois State Trooper Brad Brachear from the Region IV Traffic Crash Reconstruction Unit to show ninth-grade pre-algebra students how crucial math is in reconstructing vehicle crashes. Students appreciated the hands-on opportunity to practice math concepts, as well as the chance to build relationships with the community and learn about potential careers. Read more about the accident reconstruction activity in Dr. Remijan’s article “[Building Mathematical Skills and Community Relationships Through Crash Reconstruction](http://www.ascd.org/ascd-express/vol13/1306-remijan.aspx)” (<http://www.ascd.org/ascd-express/vol13/1306-remijan.aspx>) for ASCD Express.

The [Sangamon CEO program](https://www.sangamonceo.com/) (<https://www.sangamonceo.com/>) offers another hands-on learning experience. Students gain leadership, teamwork, and entrepreneurial skills while learning how to plan, start, finance, and run a successful company. Classes taught by educators, business owners, and other community leaders help students make local connections. Students in the program must develop a viable business idea and work on an entrepreneurial venture as a class. Some of the business concepts have gone on to [Innovate Springfield](https://www.innovatespringfield.org/) (<https://www.innovatespringfield.org/>), a business incubator that supports start-up

## Quick Links

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companies. Students who complete the Sangamon CEO program earn high school credits and six credits at Lincoln Land Community College. The program, now in its fifth year, has grown to almost 50 students across 14 participating high schools. This collaboration supports local economic development by encouraging students to invest in their communities.

All of these opportunities make high school more relevant to both students and their communities. I appreciate schools and districts sharing their innovative programs, community partnerships, and student successes with us.

On a more somber note, families in Puerto Rico continue to suffer in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Due to widespread damage to residential structures and public infrastructure, thousands of families have been displaced to areas across the United States and here in Illinois. In light of the very real possibility that your district may receive one or more students or educators displaced by Hurricane Maria, we have detailed protections and opportunities that apply to students, families, and educators of Puerto Rico in a [letter released on our website Monday](#) 📎 (/Documents/Puerto\_Rico\_Letter\_Resources.pdf). Critically important is connecting, when necessary, students and families to community-based health and mental health programs and other social programs, including programs that provide a framework for trauma-informed care.

Additionally, a new policy allows any educator displaced by Hurricane Maria to apply for a comparable license in Illinois without application or registration fees. ISBE is also waiving the requirement of official documentation for the issuance of the license sought.

Building healthy schools and strong communities requires fostering a real sense of belonging for every student and educator in our schools. Thank you for your commitment to caring for and fully preparing every student you serve.

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.

**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. 15:** 2017 Illinois Science Assessment student data correction window closes in IWAS

**Dec. 18-19:** [Accountability Technical Advisory Committee Meeting](#) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/AccountabilityTechnicalAdvisoryCommittee.aspx>)

**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](#) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/RFPs.aspx>)

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

**Jan. 15:** Public comment period on ISBE rules ends

**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. 2:** [Deadline to submit FY 18 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant RFPs](#)

(<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Equipment-Grants.aspx>)

**Feb. 9:** [Deadline to submit Early Childhood Prevention Initiative RFPs](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/RFPs.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/RFPs.aspx>)

**Feb. 16:** Early Childhood RFP Call for Evaluators window closes

**Feb. 16:** [Deadline to submit application for 2018 Competency-Based High School Graduation Requirements Pilot program](https://www.isbe.net/competency) (<https://www.isbe.net/competency>)

**March 12-18:** [2018 Illinois Arts Education Week](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Arts-Week.aspx) (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Arts-Week.aspx>)


## EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

### Substitute Teacher Application and Registration Reimbursement

Recent [legislation](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=100-0550) (<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=100-0550>) allows individuals who have worked at least 10 full school days on their substitute teaching license to receive a refund on their license application fee. The law also allows educators to receive reimbursement for their registration fees at the beginning of their renewal cycle upon providing this proof to ISBE.

The law is applicable to any educator who had a substitute license issued on or after July 1, 2017.

Below are steps educators must take to request a refund.

1. Educator must complete form [73-02 "Substitute License Fee Refund Request"](#)  ([/Documents/73-02-Substitute-License-Fee-Refund-Request.pdf](#)) and have a district complete Part II.
2. The form must be emailed to [sub10refund@isbe.net](mailto:sub10refund@isbe.net) (<mailto:sub10refund@isbe.net>) by the school district that completes Part II of the form. Forms emailed by the educator will not be accepted.

An educator may submit multiple forms to provide evidence of the total 10 days if experience was earned at multiple districts.

Please contact [licensure@isbe.net](mailto:licensure@isbe.net) (<mailto:licensure@isbe.net>) if you have any questions.

### Seeking Participants for Illinois Licensure Testing Committee

The Illinois State Board of Education and Evaluation Systems group of Pearson are currently seeking Illinois educators to apply to participate in test development activities for the Illinois Licensure Testing System (ILTS) program.

From January through March, we will be convening committees for the following tests:

- English Language Arts
- Foreign Language: French
- Foreign Language: German
- Foreign Language: Hebrew
- Foreign Language: Italian
- Foreign Language: Japanese
- Foreign Language: Russian
- Foreign Language: Spanish
- General Middle Grades
- Library Information Specialist
- Mathematics
- Music
- Reading Teacher
- School Counselor
- School Nurse

- Social Science: Economics
- Social Science: Geography
- Social Science: History
- Social Science: Political Science
- Social Science: Psychology
- Social Science: Sociology and Anthropology

Your assistance is requested in one or more of the following ways:

- Share this communication with educators who may be interested in applying to serve on one of these committees. Interested educators can click [here](http://www.cvent.com/d/8dqyvh) (http://www.cvent.com/d/8dqyvh) to complete an application to be considered for participation;
- Nominate specific educators to apply to serve on specific committees. Please click [here](http://www.cvent.com/surveys/Welcome.aspx?s=41707414-3d84-4cb3-b64b-c82deeb1c87d) (http://www.cvent.com/surveys/Welcome.aspx?s=41707414-3d84-4cb3-b64b-c82deeb1c87d) to complete the educator nomination form.
- Complete an application yourself for consideration, if you are interested in participating.

Eligibility Criteria:

Public school educators who are:

- Certified in Illinois, and
- Currently practicing in one or more of the test fields listed above.

College faculty who are:

- Teacher preparation personnel (including education faculty),
- Practicing in one or more of the test field listed above, and
- Preparing teacher candidates in an approved Illinois teacher preparation program.

Benefits of participation include:

- Opportunity to make a difference in Illinois educator development and performance, and
- Professional growth and collaboration with educators in their field.

Qualified participants are eligible for:

- Substitute reimbursement for their school (public school educators only),
- Reimbursement for travel and meal expenses, and
- Hotel accommodations, if necessary.

For more information, visit the [ILTS recruitment website](http://www.ilrecruit.nesinc.com/) (http://www.ilrecruit.nesinc.com/). If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Evaluation Systems at [evaluationsystemscrg@pearson.com](mailto:evaluationsystemscrg@pearson.com) (mailto:evaluationsystemscrg@pearson.com).

## WELLNESS PROGRAMS

### Illinois Opioid Crisis Community Survey

Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. and the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services have created a short, anonymous [web survey](https://data.ahpnet.com/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=150964041412) (https://data.ahpnet.com/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=150964041412) that asks the public about activities taking place in their communities that are addressing the opioid epidemic and what they think we need to do to solve it.

The groups are seeking feedback from **everyone** – families, providers, law enforcement, first responders, agency administrators, educators, people in recovery, etc. Please share this survey with your colleagues, other groups/coalitions, friends, and family to reach as many as people statewide as possible.

The survey is available now through Dec.22. The survey results will be used as part of the ongoing work to develop strategies to solve the epidemic.

Please contact Sue Pickett at [spickett@ahpnet.com](mailto:spickett@ahpnet.com) (mailto:spickett@ahpnet.com) or by phone at (312) 376-1870 with any questions.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

### Prevention Initiative Request for Proposals Released

The Request for Proposals (RFPs) for Prevention Initiative has been released and is located on the [ISBE Early Childhood website](#) (/Pages/RFPs.aspx). Proposals are due to ISBE no later than **4 p.m. Feb. 9, 2018**. These are open competitive grants with funding beginning in fiscal year 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.

### 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 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.

## CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

### National ACTE VISION Convention - Illinois Recognition

The Association for Career and Technical Educators (ACTE) recently held its national convention (VISION) in Nashville, TN. Several of Illinois' CTE partners were recognized for their outstanding work and contributions in their respective professions. The following individuals were national winners in their respective ACTE awards category:

- **2018 ACTE Business of the Year - John Deere** ([https://www.acteonline.org/general.aspx?id=12504#.Wi\\_eRliWyM\\_](https://www.acteonline.org/general.aspx?id=12504#.Wi_eRliWyM_))

- [2018 ACTE Champion of the Year – Superintendent Ken Wallace of Maine Township School District 207](https://www.acteonline.org/general.aspx?id=12505#.WjAggE0rJQL)  
(<https://www.acteonline.org/general.aspx?id=12505#.WjAggE0rJQL>)
- [2017 ACTE Region III Postsecondary Teacher of the Year - Sally Arnett-Hartwick of Illinois State University](https://www.acteonline.org/general.aspx?id=12797#.Wi_evViWyM9)  
([https://www.acteonline.org/general.aspx?id=12797#.Wi\\_evViWyM9](https://www.acteonline.org/general.aspx?id=12797#.Wi_evViWyM9))
- [2017 ACTE Region III New Teacher of the Year finalist - Elizabeth Chambers-Priller of Freeport](https://www.acteonline.org/general.aspx?id=12789#.Wi_e7FiWyM9)  
([https://www.acteonline.org/general.aspx?id=12789#.Wi\\_e7FiWyM9](https://www.acteonline.org/general.aspx?id=12789#.Wi_e7FiWyM9))

Additionally, the [Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education](https://www.iacte.org/cpages/home) (<https://www.iacte.org/cpages/home>) was named a Quality State Association by ACTE. ACTE Region III Vice President Cindy Stover presented IACTE President Tammi Conn with the award. Conn is the director of Career and Technical Education for the Valley View School District in Romeoville.

The ACTE is the nation's largest not-for-profit association committed to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. ACTE represents the community of CTE professionals, including educators, administrators, researchers, school counselors, guidance and career development professionals and others at all levels of education. ACTE is committed to excellence in providing advocacy, public awareness and access to resources, professional development, and leadership opportunities.

## COMPETENCY-BASED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENT PILOT

### Call for Applications Released

ISBE launched the [call for applications](#) (/competency) on November 30 for the second cohort of districts to be included in the Competency-Based High School Graduation Requirements Pilot. The pilot will allow up to 12 innovative school districts to replace high school graduation requirements with a competency-based learning system of the district's design. In competency-based learning, educators assess and advance students based on demonstrated mastery of specific skills, abilities, and knowledge, rather than on time in the classroom. The deadline to submit applications is **4 p.m. on Feb. 16**.

Experts on competency-based learning shared information about the request for applications to participate in the second cohort of the competency pilot in a recent [webinar](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/3287935978568928513) 🗣️ (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/3287935978568928513>).

For more information on this RFA, contact [competencypilot@isbe.net](mailto:competencypilot@isbe.net) (<mailto:competencypilot@isbe.net>). All questions asked concerning this RFA will be responded to in a Frequently Asked Questions document so all respondents can see all questions and the responses to the questions.

## EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

### ISBE Accountability Technical Advisory Committee Meeting – Dec. 18-19

The ISBE Accountability Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) brings together experts and leaders with broad experience developing, implementing, and/or validating statewide school accountability systems. By design, the ISBE Accountability TAC includes professionals from Illinois and other states in order to provide both a local and national perspective.

The central purpose of the TAC is to provide advice and recommendations to the State Board to inform the design, implementation, and evaluation of Illinois' ESSA accountability system. The National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment will facilitate TAC meetings and produce meeting notes, as well as a produce a report documenting the work and recommendations of the TAC.



The first meeting will be held on Dec. 18-19 at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Individuals are invited to observe via a webinar or in person. If you wish to observe via webinar, details are available on the [Accountability TAC page](#) (/Pages/AccountabilityTechnicalAdvisoryCommittee.aspx) under “Meeting – December 18-19, 2017.” If you wish to observe in person, please RSVP to [acoffin@isbe.net](mailto:acoffin@isbe.net) (mailto:acoffin@isbe.net) to see if space is available.

## ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

### 2016 Illinois Science Assessment Student Roster Reports Available in IWAS

The 2016 Illinois Science Assessment (ISA) student-level results are now available to schools and districts for viewing in IWAS in the Assessment system listing. The 2016 data corrections window is closed. **Please note these results are complete, but not yet finalized or aggregated.** Suppressions may still occur for students who took both the Dynamic Learning Maps-Alternative Assessment and the ISA, but ISBE wanted to return student results as soon as possible. The 2016 participation rate is preliminary at this time as finalization continues. Aggregate 2016 state-, district-, and school-level data will be available later this month when analyses are complete. A public release of the data will follow. Printed student score reports for distribution at your discretion will ship after schools return in January.

The task of creating and implementing a brand new test in six months, in combination with the lack of a state budget for more than two years, greatly impacted the timeline for administering, scoring, and reporting the 2016 ISA. ISBE sincerely appreciates the continued cooperation in making each year of the assessment more successful than the last.

Please contact the ISBE Division of Assessment and Accountability at (866) 317-6034 or [assessment@isbe.net](mailto:assessment@isbe.net) (mailto:assessment@isbe.net) with questions.

### 2017 Illinois Science Assessment Student Data Corrections Window Closing

The window to correct student demographic information and reason for no valid test attempt (RNVTA) for the 2017 Illinois Science Assessment will close at **5 p.m. on Dec. 15. Please note the 2017 ISA correction window has been open since June 2017; therefore, you may have already completed your review.** “How to” documents (/Pages/Illinois-Science-Assessment.aspx) for finding the report and making/verifying corrections are also available. Please contact the ISBE Division of Assessment and Accountability at (866) 317-6034 or [assessment@isbe.net](mailto:assessment@isbe.net) (mailto:assessment@isbe.net) with questions.

## RULES & WAIVERS

### Invitation to Comment on Rules

Two sets of proposed amendments recently reviewed by ISBE are now available for public comment. The proposals and a summary of the issues involved have been posted under [Proposed Rules and Amendments](#) (/Pages/Proposed-Rules-and-Amendments.aspx). Please submit any comments or suggestions to [rules@isbe.net](mailto:rules@isbe.net) (mailto:rules@isbe.net). The public comment period ends January 15, 2018. The rulemakings are Part 27 (Standards for Endorsements in Specific Teaching Fields) (Repealer) and Part 27 (Standards for Endorsements in Specific Teaching Fields) (New Part).

## NUTRITION PROGRAMS

### Application Process Begins for NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants

More than \$1.365 million will be awarded to school food authorities (SFAs) in FY 2018 for the replacement, renovation, or purchase of kitchen equipment that will allow SFAs to serve healthier meals that meet the updated meal patterns, with emphasis on more fruits and vegetables in school meals, improve food safety, and expand access.

ISBE is required to competitively award these equipment assistance grants to eligible SFAs participating in the National School Lunch Program. Higher priority must be given to high-need schools in which 50 percent or more of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

The FY 2018 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant RFP is available on the [Equipment Assistant Grants page \(/Pages/Equipment-Grants.aspx\)](/Pages/Equipment-Grants.aspx). The deadline to apply is Feb. 2, 2018.

## GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY TRANSPARENCY ACT

### Un-Submitted First Quarter FY 2018 Grantee Periodic Performance Reports Now Past Due

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 FY 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 webinars in the "What's New?" section on the [GATA page \(/Pages/Grant-Accountability-and-Transparency-Act.aspx\)](/Pages/Grant-Accountability-and-Transparency-Act.aspx). The [webinar](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/8522017045705743106)  (https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/8522017045705743106) held on Nov. 1 covers the periodic reporting requirements and system, as well as the implementation of risk-based conditions and addresses participant questions.


Questions may be submitted to the ISBE GATA administration staff at [GATA@ISBE.net](mailto:GATA@ISBE.net) (mailto:GATA@ISBE.net).



## Student Recognition

- Congratulations to all Illinois high school students who have been named **2018-19 State Scholars** (<http://www.isac.org/students/before-college/college-career-planning/state-scholar/index.html>) by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission for their outstanding academic achievement!

## School Recognition

- Congratulations to **Elmhurst Academy**  ([https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/b84766\\_a98a956f76084ca48166becbc673d958.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/b84766_a98a956f76084ca48166becbc673d958.pdf)) for being designated a Partnership for 21st Century Learning Exemplar School for 2017-18!

## Student Opportunities

- The **RIT National Technical Institute for the Deaf** is holding two contests for deaf and hard-of-hearing high school students:
  - Students in 9 – 12 grades can enter artwork in the categories of web design, graphic media, 3-D animation, film, interactive media, or photo imaging. The deadline to enter is March 15, 2018. Encourage your artistic students to [register today](https://rit.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=37c5a86004ffbd6a657980d18c&id=e49f554f50&e=9559113c06) (<https://rit.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=37c5a86004ffbd6a657980d18c&id=e49f554f50&e=9559113c06>).
  - Student in 10 – 11 grades are being asked to submit their original compositions to the SpiRIT Writing Contest to win a scholarship to [Explore Your Future](https://rit.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=37c5a86004ffbd6a657980d18c&id=1ed1bbedf0&e=9559113c06) (<https://rit.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=37c5a86004ffbd6a657980d18c&id=1ed1bbedf0&e=9559113c06>), a week-long summer career exploration program at RIT that can help your student make important decisions about his or her future or win a cash prize. Students should complete the [entry form](https://rit.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=37c5a86004ffbd6a657980d18c&id=dd8fd0c1c6&e=9559113c06) (<https://rit.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=37c5a86004ffbd6a657980d18c&id=dd8fd0c1c6&e=9559113c06>), assemble the required sampling of his or her original work, and submit the materials by March 15, 2018.

## School Nutrition Ideas

- Check out these new school recipes shared by the **Midwest Dairy Council**: [Asian Slaw](https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-asian-slaw) (<https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-asian-slaw>), [Baked Caribbean Lime Fish Sticks](https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-baked-caribbean-lime-fish-sticks) (<https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-baked-caribbean-lime-fish-sticks>), [Chipotle BBQ Three Bean Salad](https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-chipotle-bbq-three-bean-salad) (<https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-chipotle-bbq-three-bean-salad>), [Creamy Arroz Con Pollo](https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-creamy-arroz-con-pollo) (<https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-creamy-arroz-con-pollo>), [Creamy Herb Yogurt Dressing](https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-creamy-herb-yogurt-dressing) (<https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-creamy-herb-yogurt-dressing>), [Spiced Yogurt Muffins](https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-spiced-yogurt-muffins) (<https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-spiced-yogurt-muffins>), [Greek Yogurt Banana Muffins](https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-greek-yogurt-banana-muffins) (<https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-greek-yogurt-banana-muffins>), [Sriracha Chicken Salad Wrap](https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-sriracha-chicken-salad-wrap) (<https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-sriracha-chicken-salad-wrap>), [Ranch Veggie Pattie on a Bun](https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-ranch-veggie-pattie-on-a-bun) (<https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-ranch-veggie-pattie-on-a-bun>), and [Fruity Yogurt Popsicles](https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-fruity-yogurt-popsicles) (<https://www.nationaldairycouncil.org/content/2017/school-recipe-card-fruity-yogurt-popsicles>).

## Recognition Opportunities

- Northern Illinois University's **Marguerite F. Key Fellows Program** is designed to identify and reward preschool, elementary, and/or secondary principals who have implemented new and inventive strategies to postsecondary access and retention. Up to 10 Key Fellows will be chosen each year from school districts across Illinois to participate in a one-day leadership institution in June on the NIU DeKalb campus organized around a central college and career readiness theme. This institute gathers these visionary leaders to study and discuss their innovative approaches. To submit a nomination, visit the [NIU Marguerite F. Key Fellows Program page](http://cedu.niu.edu/lepfp/key-fellows-program/index.shtml) (<http://cedu.niu.edu/lepfp/key-fellows-program/index.shtml>). The deadline is Jan. 31.

## District Recognition

- Congratulations **Roselle School District 12** for launching Discovery Zone (aka Genius Hour) this year as a districtwide initiative. District 12 staff and administration have put the learning in the hands of students by prioritizing personalized learning opportunities in the schedule during the daily "WIN or What I Need" time. For more information, please subscribe to the [Roselle D12 You Tube Channel Student Newscast](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MS-GU0Vjtms) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MS-GU0Vjtms>).

## ISBE Employment Opportunities

- Watch for ISBE career opportunities and find instructions for applying on ISBE's [Career page](/Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx) (</Pages/Careers-at-ISBE.aspx>).