

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



December 19, 2017



Hello,

As we go into holiday break, I want to share my appreciation for all of our partners who have pushed and pulled for us to reach where we are. Two historic events in 2017 shifted the public education landscape statewide, positioning Illinois to provide even more support to students and families. Both shifts resulted from the feedback, collaboration, and engagement of dedicated educators and advocates over months and years. Illinois now has fairer school funding and a balanced accountability system, reflecting renewed commitments from leadership across the state to providing all children the supports they need to thrive.

Evidence-based funding (EBF) helps us take an important step toward equity. We continue to receive questions about EBF, particularly about the relational funding structure that determines the amount of additional tier funding each district will receive. I

understand the uncertainty; this is fundamentally different from our past system of funding. Under the new structure, those districts furthest away from adequacy will receive more tier funding and those districts at or above adequacy will receive less additional funding. ISBE staff are on track to calculate the tier funding every district will receive in addition to the base funding minimum (hold harmless). We are working to complete the data verification process and understand where all 852 districts are in relation to one another so that we can voucher the tiered funding by April. Thank you for engaging in this process with such diligence and curiosity. Please continue to send your questions to EBFhelp@isbe.net (mailto:EBFhelp@isbe.net), as we are regularly updating our [Evidence-Based Funding Frequently Asked Questions webpage](/Pages/state-funding-and-forecasting-faqs.aspx) (/Pages/state-funding-and-forecasting-faqs.aspx). The "[Understanding the Evidence-Based Formula Distribution Calculation](/Pages/EvidenceBasedFunding.aspx)" [webinar modules](/Pages/EvidenceBasedFunding.aspx) (/Pages/EvidenceBasedFunding.aspx) share more information about the processes for determining a district's adequacy target and local resources and for distributing state funds based on a district's percentage of adequacy.

We are now two years into Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) work. ISBE submitted the Illinois ESSA State Plan this past spring after 16 months of collaboration and thoughtful development spurred by more than 100 stakeholder meetings. This shared ownership of the Illinois ESSA State Plan is incredibly important. I want to recognize all the ways in which different communities have pulled together to bring the best thinking, questions, and positive intent. The U.S. Department of Education approved Illinois' new balanced accountability system on Aug. 30. Our plan centers on equity; schools with lower outcomes will receive the strongest support. Implementation is really hard work. Our shared commitment will continue to move us toward our ambitious goals.

Quick Links

- [Illinois Green Ribbon Schools](#)
- [College & Career Readiness](#)
- [Nutrition Programs](#)
- [Educator Effectiveness](#)
- [Wellness Programs](#)
- [Early Childhood Education](#)
- [Career and Technical Education](#)
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The Illinois Report Card is another example of strong partnership to create a tool that helps inform parents, families, and communities equally about the outcomes and opportunities in public education at school, district, and state levels. Illinois was recognized as one of five “bright spots” in the Data Quality Campaign’s [Show Me the Data 2017: States Can Improve Report Cards This Year](https://dataqualitycampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/DQC-Show-Me-the-Data_final.pdf) 📄 (https://dataqualitycampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/DQC-Show-Me-the-Data_final.pdf) report. The Illinois Report Card was highlighted for going above and beyond what is required by law to allow for a deeper understanding of each school.

The [New America Foundation](https://www.newamerica.org/education-policy/edcentral/report-cards-els/) (https://www.newamerica.org/education-policy/edcentral/report-cards-els/) also identified Illinois as a national leader for how our ESSA State Plan conveys a more complete picture of how former English Learners (ELs) are faring. We created a longitudinal category to track how former ELs perform after exiting classification and through graduation. We will include data for all relevant former EL metrics on the Illinois Report Card. It’s been a landmark year for Illinois, so it’s nice to be acknowledged for our collective work and commitment to serving all students.

Over the next two weeks, the Weekly Message will be used to communicate only upcoming dates and deadlines. I will return with more in the New Year.

Happy holidays!

Tony

***** The Dec. 26 and Jan. 3 Superintendent’s Weekly Messages will only include upcoming dates and deadlines. *****



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.

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) (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) (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)

(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. 12: [Deadline to submit Illinois Green Ribbon Schools Program application](https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/now-open-illinois-green-ribbon-schools-application/) (https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/now-open-illinois-green-ribbon-schools-application/)

Feb. 15: [Deadline to submit 21st CCLC RFPs](https://www.isbe.net/Pages/21st-Century-Community-Learning-Centers.aspx) (https://www.isbe.net/Pages/21st-Century-Community-Learning-Centers.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)

Illinois Green Ribbon Schools Application Now Available

The Illinois Green Ribbon Schools Program recognizes schools that have active programs, actions, and dedication to promote and educate about sustainability. Illinois Green Alliance, working in partnership with the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Board of Higher Education, will be accepting applications from schools across Illinois. This is a great opportunity to showcase your school's efforts to be green and highlight the achievements of staff, students, and families to your entire community.

Applications are due by the close of business on **Feb. 12**. The top scoring schools will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools Program for consideration at the national level. Additional information about the timeline and the application for K-12 schools can be found [here](https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/now-open-illinois-green-ribbon-schools-application/) (https://illinoisgreenalliance.org/now-open-illinois-green-ribbon-schools-application/).

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Request for Proposals Released

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) has been released and is located on the [ISBE 21st CCLC website](#) (/Pages/21st-Century-Community-Learning-Centers.aspx). Proposals are due to ISBE no later than **4 p.m. Feb. 15, 2018**. These are competitive grants with funding beginning in fiscal year 2019. Links to data, webinars, and other resources for entities to use in preparing for the FY 2019 RFP can also be found on the 21st CCLC page. For questions, please contact Shayla Grantham at (217) 524-4832 or 21stccclc@isbe.net (mailto:21stccclc@isbe.net).

Seeking FY 2019 21st CCLC Program Grant Readers

The Illinois State Board of Education College and Career Readiness Division is seeking additional grant readers for the FY 2019 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program grant competition. Preferred grant readers must have after-school experience and knowledge in after-school programming and/or community-based programming that serves school-aged students, grantsmanship experience, previous grant-reading experience, 21st CCLC experience and knowledge, program management, and experience with schools and districts.

Readers will need to be available from late February through early March to read the RFP. Readers will be required to participate in a training that will be delivered via a webinar during the month of January (additional details forthcoming). Readers will read and score assigned applications, which will be sent to the readers through a web-based system. Access to a computer with internet capability will be necessary. An honorarium will be provided. Once selected, readers will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement, a memorandum of understanding, and complete a conflict of interest questionnaire. To prevent a conflict of interest, any reader who is submitting an application would not be eligible to be a reader for this round.

To be considered for this opportunity, please send a letter of interest and resume or curriculum vitae by Jan. 8 to Principal Consultant Kenya Davis, Illinois State Board of Education, College and Career Readiness Division, 100 North First Street, Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001 or via email at 21stccclc@isbe.net (mailto:21stccclc@isbe.net). Please contact Davis with questions at (217) 524-4832.

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 (PWR Act). Feedback is being collected through an **online survey** (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PWRActEndorsementCompetencies>) that will inform the state's development of technical and employability competencies for College and Career Pathway Endorsements under the PWR Act. The PWR Act established a voluntary

system for school districts to award College and Career Pathways Endorsements to high school graduates. Endorsements signify that a student is ready to pursue postsecondary education or enter a career related to a selected career interest area and incentivize career exploration and development, particularly in high-demand sectors. Public and private committees representing employers from across the state have been working for the last six months to identify draft industry-wide technical and employability competencies in four key sectors: (1) Finance and Business Services, (2) Health Sciences, (3) Information Technology, and (4) Manufacturing and Engineering. [The current draft of the competencies can be reviewed here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tCAzixG4561MDaiUcQ6yiW4oli0kaXKI/view?usp=sharing) (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tCAzixG4561MDaiUcQ6yiW4oli0kaXKI/view?usp=sharing). The commenting period is open until **Jan. 15**.

Seeking Educator Feedback on College and Career Transitional Math Competencies

Feedback is being sought on draft competencies for College and Career Transitional Math as part of the effort to implement the PWR Act. A major barrier to postsecondary persistence and completion is remedial education, and many Illinois high school graduates require remedial courses in math. The PWR Act includes provisions for providing math instruction, referred to in the legislation as transitional math, to high school seniors to support their readiness for credit-bearing college math courses corresponding to the student's career pathway of interest. Committees including high school teachers, postsecondary faculty, and employers have developed draft competencies for transitional math instruction in three pathways: (1) STEM, (2) Quantitative Literacy and Statistics, and (3) Technical. Public comments and feedback are invited for the transitional math competencies and policies through an [online survey](http://www2.iccb.org/iltransitionalmath/documents/) (http://www2.iccb.org/iltransitionalmath/documents/). In particular, employer feedback is needed for the technical math competencies, as these competencies are intended to address the math knowledge and skills student should demonstrate for entry-level employment in technical fields. The commenting period is open until **Jan. 15**.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS

National School Breakfast Week is Set for March 6-10

National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) is set for March 6-10, and this year's theme is "Take the School Breakfast Challenge." Here are several resources to help you step up to the challenge and plan something special.

- The [School Nutrition Association](https://schoolnutrition.org/Meetings/Events/NSBW/2017/getstarted/) (https://schoolnutrition.org/Meetings/Events/NSBW/2017/getstarted/) has a wide variety of resources, including the [NSBW 2017 Toolkit](https://schoolnutrition.org/uploadedFiles/2_Meetings_and_Events/NSBW_2017/Pages/NSBW2017Toolkit.pdf)  (https://schoolnutrition.org/uploadedFiles/2_Meetings_and_Events/NSBW_2017/Pages/NSBW2017Toolkit.pdf). The toolkit highlights ways to promote your program (use #NSBW17 for social media), a photo contest, an origami fruit project, activity sheets, a sample press release, and more.
- Check out the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Team Nutrition for great [School Breakfast Program materials](https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/sbp-materials) (https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/sbp-materials) to celebrate the special week. The space-themed "[Launch Your Day With Breakfast](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/TNevents_launch.pdf)"  (https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/TNevents_launch.pdf) is one thing to consider from the [Popular Events Idea Booklet](https://www.fns.usda.gov/team-nutrition-popular-events-idea-booklet) (https://www.fns.usda.gov/team-nutrition-popular-events-idea-booklet).
- The Food Research & Action Center will host the "Breakfast Matters Webinar: Let's Celebrate School Breakfast" at 2 p.m. on Jan. 11. The webinar will focus on ideas on how to celebrate and advocate for school breakfast for NSBW and year-round. [Register online](http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5118/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=87147) (http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5118/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=87147).

The Illinois State Board of Education administers the [School Breakfast Program](/Pages/School-Breakfast-Program.aspx) (/Pages/School-Breakfast-Program.aspx) and the [National School Lunch Program](/Pages/National-School-Lunch-Program.aspx) (/Pages/National-School-Lunch-Program.aspx), which are funded by the USDA.

EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

Upcoming Illinois New Teacher Collaborative Winter Summit

The Illinois New Teacher Collaborative is hosting a winter leadership summit, “Stoking the Flames of Passionate Teaching,” on Jan. 26 for leaders of new, developing, or revisioning induction and mentoring programs. The summit will take place at the iHotel in Champaign. This is a working conference with a full day of breakout sessions, panel discussions, facilitated roundtables, and networking. Joe Fatheree of the Illinois Teacher Leader Network will be the keynote.

Registration is now open. For more information, visit <https://intc.education.illinois.edu/conference> (<https://intc.education.illinois.edu/conference>).

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” and have a district complete Part II: <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/73-02-Substitute-License-Fee-Refund-Request.pdf>  (/Documents/73-02-Substitute-License-Fee-Refund-Request.pdf).
2. The form must be emailed to 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>) 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.

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).

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) or by phone at (312) 376-1870 with any questions.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Updates to Early Childhood Professional Learning Website

Early Childhood Professional Learning invites you to explore the [new ECPL website](http://www.eclearningil.org/) (http://www.eclearningil.org/). The website includes a special section called the Workbench, which is dedicated to supporting instructional leaders and parent educators in the successful implementation of the expansion grant within a framework of continuous quality improvement. You can connect with fellow practitioners through monitored forums to ask questions and exchange ideas that promote best practices. In addition to the forums, there are resources and information about upcoming professional learning opportunities, all targeted to support you in the important work you perform to improve outcomes for young children and families.

Prevention Initiative Request for Proposals Released

The RFP for Prevention Initiative has been released and is located on the [ISBE Early Childhood website](/Pages/RFPs.aspx) (/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 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)
- [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)

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.

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) or (312) 814-3985.

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 [Grant Accountability and Transparency Act web page](#) (/Pages/Grant-Accountability-and-Transparency-Act.aspx). The [webinar](#) (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).

IN BRIEF

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!

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 for the Digital Arts, Film and Animation Competition today](#) (<https://rit.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=37c5a86004ffbda657980d18c&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=37c5a86004ffbda657980d18c&id=1ed1bbef0&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=37c5a86004ffbda657980d18c&id=dd8fd0c1c6&e=9559113c06>), assemble the required sampling of his or her original work, and submit the materials by March 15, 2018.

School Recognition

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

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>), [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>), [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>), [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>), [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>), and [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/lep/lep/key-fellows-program/index.shtml) (<http://cedu.niu.edu/lep/lep/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).