

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

August 8, 2017



Hello,

We remain committed to equity and to addressing the needs of every child in Illinois as schools and districts across the state launch into the school year. We understand that children come to our schools with interconnected learning environments that we need to acknowledge and value. ISBE staff are continuing to build relationships with districts and deepen our dialogue to better support you and serve all children.

Our efforts to strengthen our partnerships this school year will continue with our annual Back to School webinar **tomorrow, Aug. 9, at 1 p.m.** We will share updates, introduce new tools, discuss your questions, and direct you to materials where you can find more information. Almost 500 administrators have registered for the webinar so far; if you have not already done so, I encourage you to [sign up for the Back to School webinar here](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1032827730899995906)

(<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1032827730899995906>). I look forward to engaging in conversation with you and answering your questions. The webinar will be recorded and posted on the [Back to School webpage](#) (/backtoschool) along with the FAQs for those of you who are not able to participate live.

We received many great pictures from across the state last year, so we are again initiating our Back to School photo campaign this year. There are lots of opportunities -- teachers are setting up their classrooms, staff members are meeting to discuss goals for the year, and children are entering their schools with big smiles, etc. Don't forget to [tag us](#)

(<https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisStateBoardofEducation/>) in your Facebook posts, [tweet at us](#) (<https://twitter.com/ISBEnews>) with #ILBacktoSchool, and/or email your photos and captions to backtoschool@isbe.net (<mailto:backtoschool@isbe.net>) to be featured on our Back to School webpage and social media pages. (Please make sure you have obtained the necessary media consent from the parent/guardian of each student shown in the photos.)

Students have an exciting opportunity this month to share their skills and become a part of Illinois' bicentennial history. Illinois high school and college students are invited to celebrate our state's 200th birthday by submitting a 45-60 second self-made video highlighting a fact, event, place, person, or something to learn about the incredible history of Illinois. One hundred winners will have their video aired and posted as part of the 100 Day Bicentennial Countdown. Each winner whose video is selected will receive two tickets to the Dec. 3 Chicago matinee performance of *Hamilton*. The deadline for video submissions is Aug. 31. [Find more details about the Illinois' bicentennial video contest here](#) (<http://illinois200.marsdigitalmedia.com/index.htm>).

Finally, administrators, please remind your staff that the renewal deadline for professional educator licenses and educator licenses with stipulations endorsed for career and technical educator is quickly approaching. All licenses with a July 1, 2017, renewal date must be renewed and registered by Aug. 31 or they will lapse and be invalid for employment. Please log in to ELIS and ensure your educators' "Registered Thru" column shows a date of 6/30/18 or later. For questions, please contact ISBE's Educator Effectiveness Division at (217) 557-6763 or licensure@isbe.net.

Quick Links

- [Nutrition Programs](#)
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Have a great week!

Tony

UPCOMING ISBE DATES AND DEADLINES

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

Aug. 9: Back to School Administrators Webinar

Aug. 11: Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in fall 2017 (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Waivers.aspx>)

Aug. 14: Public comment period ends for proposed amendments to Parts 23 and 75 (<https://www.isbe.net/rules>)

Aug. 15: Deadline to submit Annual Pupil Transportation Reimbursement claim

Aug. 16: Illinois State Board of Education meeting (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx>)

Aug. 23: IDPH and ISBE School Health Update webinars (<https://www.isbe.net/pages/school-health-issues.aspx>)

Aug. 31: Deadline for Illinois Bicentennial Celebration student video contest submissions (<http://illinois200.marsdigitalmedia.com/index.htm>)

Sept. 1: Employee evaluations due in EIS

Sept. 4: ISBE offices closed for Labor Day

Sept. 8: Deadline to submit Intent to Apply for FY 2018 Preschool for All Expansion State RFP

(<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30dklixN0yytNnWajlFDYxcJUOFBMMkZJWTIUSU9HN1cyNktJMjBaNEMyRi4u>)

Sept. 13-14: Illinois State Board of Education meeting (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx>)

Sept. 18: Deadline to submit FY 2018 Preschool for All Expansion State RFP (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/RFPs.aspx>)

Oct. 9: ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day

Oct. 18: Illinois State Board of Education meeting (<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Illinois-State-Board-of-Education-Calendar.aspx>)

Oct. 31: Deadline to submit FY 2018 School District Budget/Joint Agreement Forms

NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Webinars on Direct Certification and Certification of HEAs Coming Up

Staff with ISBE's Nutrition and Wellness Programs Division will present "Direct Certification" and "Certification of Household Eligibility Applications" webinars this month for School Nutrition Program sponsors.

Please use the links below to register for the sessions that you wish to attend.

- [SNP Webinar: Direct Certification](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1151393567762485506) (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1151393567762485506>), 9 a.m. Aug. 10
- [SNP Webinar: Certification of Household Eligibility Applications](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/9014335469523631106) (<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/9014335469523631106>), 1 p.m. Aug. 15

Both webinars will be recorded and available as [archived webinars](/Pages/Nutrition-and-Wellness-Resources.aspx) (</Pages/Nutrition-and-Wellness-Resources.aspx>) if you are unable to attend at that date and time. Complete information on these regulatory topic can be found in the [School Nutrition Programs Administrative Handbook](/Pages/SchoolNutritionAdminHandbook.aspx) (</Pages/SchoolNutritionAdminHandbook.aspx>).

BACK TO SCHOOL

Reminder: 2017 Back to School Webinar with Superintendent Smith



State Superintendent Tony Smith will lead a webinar for district administrators at 1 p.m. on Aug. 9 in preparation for the 2017-18 school year. He will speak about funding for schools, address new developments in state implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), and update district administrators on state assessments and other key ongoing education initiatives. He will also discuss the resources that will be provided to administrators as they launch into the new school year.

A portion of the webinar will be devoted to answering questions. A list of the most frequently asked questions previously sent in by administrators will be addressed during the webinar; an FAQ will be compiled and posted after the webinar as well. Please email any questions or comments regarding the webinar to backtoschool@isbe.net (mailto:backtoschool@isbe.net).

Register for the Back to School webinar (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1032827730899995906>).

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Webinars on Meeting Educational Technology Challenges Coming Up

ISBE is facilitating webinars on Aug. 14 and Aug. 30 to provide Illinois school, district, and technology leaders an opportunity to share ideas on advancing digital learning, equitable access, and networking and technology services that address state, regional, and district needs. The webinars are devoted to receiving feedback from participants, which will then be used to help inform the development of state and regional educational technology support systems that enhance teaching and learning. All interested stakeholders are encouraged to join.

Register for the webinar at 10 a.m. Aug. 14 (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3352235415685286657>).

Register for the webinar at 1 p.m. on Aug. 30 (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7583732303460327425>).

If you are unable to attend either webinar, but would like to share ideas or suggestions, please send them to edtech@isbe.net (mailto:edtech@isbe.net).

SCHOOL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Solar Eclipse Health and Safety Information

As you may be aware, there will be a complete solar eclipse on Monday, Aug. 21, starting shortly before noon and lasting until 2:45 p.m. Eclipses, which are a rare phenomenon, are very dangerous to view without appropriate eyewear and precautions. To help keep your students safe, the Illinois Department of Public Health has issued some [tips for safely viewing the solar eclipse](http://www.dph.illinois.gov/news/health-and-safety-tips-eclipse) (<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/news/health-and-safety-tips-eclipse>).

2017-18 School Health Update Webinars – Clarification

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and ISBE are jointly offering training to school nurses and other school health staff regarding school health updates for the upcoming school year on Aug. 23.

All school nurses and others who are responsible for school health compliance and reporting requirements are invited to attend the webinar on Aug. 23. Due to participant feedback from last year's similar update, ISBE and IDPH are splitting the training into two parts for those who cannot attend the entire training in one sitting. IDPH staff will begin the webinar at 1 p.m. and conclude for a break at 2:15 p.m.

ISBE staff will speak from 2:30 - 3:45 p.m. Participants should plan to register for both and attend the entire time on Aug. 23; however, if time is limited participants may attend one of the live sessions and view the other presentation at a later date. The live presentations will include a Q&A by both IDPH and ISBE staff. The recorded presentations, along with registration links and downloadable slides, will be available Sept. 1. Each session will provide 1.25 Continuing Nurse Education hours for nurses upon verification by the ISBE IT Department and completion of an evaluation. Registration information provided below.

Note: If attending both on Aug. 23, please register for both. If unable to attend both on Aug. 23, please register for the one you expect to attend on Aug. 23. Do not register for either if you plan to attend at a later time. Registration for attendance other than Aug. 23 will be available Sept. 1.

[IDPH School Health Update](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4280005525762972162) (https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4280005525762972162)

[ISBE School Health Update](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4777051851727054082) (https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4777051851727054082)

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

FY 2018 Preschool for All Expansion State RFP Released

The [FY 2018 Preschool for All Expansion State Request for Proposals \(RFP](#) (/Pages/RFPs.aspx#collapse4zone6)) has been released. The due date for submittal is 4 p.m. on Sept. 18. The application must be completed in eGMS. Eligible applicants must submit the [FY 2018 Notice of Intent to Submit Proposal – Preschool for All Expansion 3 to 5 Years](#) (https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=hv5kA8ZJ9Eq1LDNameV30dklixN0yytNnWajlFDYxcJUOFBMMkZJWtIUSU9HN1cyNktJMjBaNEMyRi4u) to access the RFP system in IWAS in order to apply. The intent to apply deadline is Sept. 8. The following entities outside the City of Chicago may apply: Regional Offices of Education, public school districts, university laboratory schools approved by the Illinois State Board of Education, charter schools, area vocational centers, and public or private not-for-profit or for-profit entities with experience in providing education, health, social, and/or child development services to young children and their families. A separate appropriation has been awarded to City of Chicago District #299. Questions may be directed to the Early Childhood Division at (217) 524-4835 or earlychi@isbe.net (mailto:earlychi@isbe.net).

Upcoming Conference and Professional Development

The Sharing A Vision conference, coordinated by the Illinois Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children in collaboration with the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Human Services, will take place Oct. 25-27 in East Peoria. It is open to both professionals and families and is designed to improve policies and practices for young children. The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites and Conference Center in East Peoria and will host more than 70 sessions in alignment with Division for Early Childhood Recommended Practices. To register, please visit www.sharingavision.org (http://www.sharingavision.org/).

Additionally, as we gear up for the school year, remember to consider the professional development and technical assistance available from ISBE's Early Childhood Division projects:

Early Childhood Center of Professional Development (<http://www.thecenterweb.org/programs/early-childhood-education/>) has a goal to provide sophisticated tools and up-to-date resources on which to build - while enhancing - the skills of Illinois early educators through workshops and webinars.

Early CHOICES (<http://www.eclre.org/>) has a specific focus on preschool least restrictive environments and promotes increasing high-quality inclusive education for each and every preschool-aged child. This includes working with districts to create systems change so they can generate more inclusive opportunities for all young children.

Illinois STARNET (<http://www.starnet.org/>) services include a broad range of resources and information for parents and professionals, including workshops, on-site presentations, technical assistance and funding for training. STARNET programs address children from birth to age 8.

EDUCATOR EFFECTIVENESS

Educator Licensure Renewal Deadline Quickly Approaching

The grace period for renewing professional educator licenses and educator licenses with stipulations endorsed for career and technical educator ends Aug. 31. All licenses with a July 1, 2017, renewal date must be renewed and registered by Aug. 31 or they will lapse and be invalid for employment. Educators who wish to reinstate a lapsed license must either pay a \$500 penalty fee or complete nine semester hours of endorsement-related coursework.

Administrators, please remind your staff to renew before the deadline and ensure all of your teachers are renewed and registered. To check, log in to ELIS and ensure your educators' "Registered Thru" column shows a date of 6/30/18 or later.

Educators, don't let your license lapse! Log in to your ELIS account today to record your professional development, renew, and register your license for the upcoming five-year cycle.

For questions, please contact ISBE's Educator Effectiveness Division at (217) 557-6763 or licensure@isbe.net (<mailto:licensure@isbe.net>).

IL-EMPOWER

Illinois 5Essentials Survey of Learning Conditions: Organizing Schools for Improvement

Schools across Illinois participated in the fifth annual Illinois 5Essentials Survey of Learning Conditions: Organizing Schools for Improvement from Nov. 15, 2016, to Jan. 30, 2017. This survey generates data that districts can use to guide their ongoing efforts to improve schools and to offer students a world-class education. The survey is another improvement tool that allows districts and the state to share data as a means to inform parents and community members.

The administration window for the survey ran from January to March during the first four years it was taken. It was decided to administer the survey from late fall to early winter for school year 2016-17 after feedback was received from schools and districts. The shift in timeline, which will be maintained moving forward, gives students, parents, and school staff a better opportunity to provide feedback on the critical elements of school culture and climate. The Illinois 5Essentials Survey is administered online by UChicago Impact at the University of Chicago on behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education.

Accessing the Survey Results

The reports for schools that participated in the 2016-17 survey administration can be accessed by visiting <https://illinois.5-essentials.org/2017/> (<https://illinois.5-essentials.org/2017/>) and searching by school name, district name, or ZIP code. Please note: Schools are only required to participate in the 5Essentials or an approved alternative every other year. Therefore, some schools may not have reports or data to view.

The 5Essentials Indicators

The Illinois 5Essentials Survey identifies five indicators that lead to improved outcomes for all students, including improved attendance and larger test score gains.

The five indicators that positively affect school success are:

- Effective Leaders
- Collaborative Teachers
- Involved Families
- Supportive Environments
- Ambitious Instruction

Research derived from the Five Essentials for School Success has proven that schools strong on at least three of the 5Essentials are 10 times more likely to improve student outcomes.

Looking Forward

The 2017-18 survey window will go from Nov. 15, 2017, to Jan. 18, 2018. More details about the coming year's survey administration will be released in the Superintendent's Weekly Message and to school administrators in August. Also, ISBE staff are collaborating with UChicago Impact to expand the fourth- and fifth-grade student pilot to other districts that are interested. In addition, staff will be working with schools and districts to share local efforts so that survey results can be utilized to create better opportunities and outcomes for all students. Finally, staff from ISBE, the Ounce of Prevention, and the University of Chicago Consortium on School Research will be working to determine feasibility regarding scaling up the early childhood survey pilot that was conducted in school year 2016-17. There will be additional information about survey enhancements forthcoming throughout the summer and fall.

If you have any questions, please contact IL-EMPOWER team at (217) 524-4832 or email 5Essentials@isbe.net (<mailto:5Essentials@isbe.net>).

DATA ANALYSIS

SY 2017 Employee Evaluations Deadline Extended


This is a **notification** that the deadline for SY 2017 employee evaluations has been extended to **Friday, Sept. 1**, in the Employment Information System (EIS). Evaluations were mandated in the [Performance Evaluations Reform Act \(PERA\)](#) (/Pages/Educator-Evaluations.aspx) in Senate Bill 315; Public Act 96-0861.

If your district has already submitted SY 2017 evaluations, this notification can be disregarded. Please utilize the Evaluation Reports in the Reports tab to check what information has been submitted.

What's due by Sept. 1?

- Teacher summative rating
- Principal and assistant principal summative rating

NOTE: If a teacher was not evaluated in SY 2017, most likely due to tenure, please do not enter an evaluation. Teachers, principals, and assistant principals are the only positions requiring evaluations. No other EIS positions, including school service personnel and district superintendents, require an evaluation.


For step-by-step instructions on how to enter employee evaluations, please refer to "[Entering Employee Evaluations: A How-To Guide.](#)"  (/Documents/entering-employee-eval-guide.pdf) Please refer to the [Data Elements documentation](#) (/Pages/EIS-Data-Elements.aspx) for further assistance.

For inquiries related to the PERA statute, please call the Licensure Division at (217) 557-6763.

For inquiries related to entering evaluations in EIS, please call the Data Analysis Division at (217) 782-3950 or email [datahelp@isbe.net](mailto:atahelp@isbe.net) (mailto:atahelp@isbe.net).

ENGLISH LEARNERS

English Learner Assessment Information

The ACCESS exam used for the purposes of reclassifying English Learners (ELs) was a new version during the 2016-17 school year. To this end, ISBE has adopted a new cut score for the ACCESS 2.0 retroactive to the 2016-17 school year. View [information regarding screening instruments used and cut scores for when a student may require EL services, requirements for part-time Transitional Bilingual Education enrollment, and the ACCESS 2.0 required reclassification score for the 2017-18 school year](#)  (/Documents/ScreenersScoresGuidanceChart.pdf).

ISBE acknowledges that any change in testing instrument or score may have significant implications for districts to serve ELs successfully. Thus, ISBE will continue to collaborate with the Illinois Bilingual Advisory Council to ensure that data-informed decisions are in the best interest of ELs. Should you have questions or comments, please contact dell@isbe.net (mailto:dell@isbe.net).

NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

ISBE Seeking Applicants for Ombudsman Position

ISBE is seeking interested applicants to serve in the contractor position of ombudsman. In general, the ombudsman acts on behalf of nonpublic schools to help ensure that Local Education Agencies (LEAs) compliance with consultation and implementation requirements under ESSA.

The ombudsman fulfills this charge by:

- Providing technical assistance to both LEAs and nonpublic schools regarding
 - The consultation process;
 - Allowable uses of funds by nonpublic schools under ESSA;
 - Implementation of planned services;
- Assisting with resolution of conflicts and complaints that arise between LEAs and nonpublic schools;
- Enforcing ESSA requirements as needed;
- Reporting to ISBE staff and/or the Nonpublic School Advisory Council as requested and as appropriate on work done and on recommendations to improve LEA/nonpublic school relations;
- Performing other duties as appropriate in relation to LEA/nonpublic school grant program consultation and implementation.

Additional information on nonpublic schools can be found at [ISBE's Nonpublic Website](#) (/Pages/Nonpublic-School-Participation.aspx). Additional information on the role of the ombudsman can be found within the Non-Regulatory Guidance: Fiscal Changes and Equitable Services Requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by ESSA. (See sections 1117 and 8501.)

West 40 will be the business agent for the contractor assigned to serve as the ombudsman required under ESSA (Sec. 1117) to "help ensure equitable services are provided to private school children, teachers, and other educational personnel." All work shall be assigned and managed by ISBE while having the ombudsman work through West 40. This allows the roles to maintain some objective distance from ISBE.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and resume to Dr. Gary Greene at ggreene@isbe.net (mailto:ggreene@isbe.net). The extended deadline to respond is **Aug. 8**.

GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY TRANSPARENCY ACT

Required FY 2018 GATA Grantee Pre-Qualification Process

All grantees must complete the registration process and be qualified to do business with the State of Illinois.

The grantee pre-qualification registration portal may be accessed directly on the GATA website at www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/default.aspx (http://www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/default.aspx).

To be qualified to **apply** for an FY 2018 grant award, an entity must complete the following four steps:

1. Authentication (New for FY 2018)

The Grantee Portal can be accessed through the Grantee Links heading on the GATA website. A personal or business email address is required to establish an account. Authentication is required through the Illinois.gov authentication portal. It establishes or verifies the relationship between an individual and the organization they represent. Authentication is performed once for each individual associated with a registration. If your email was not previously associated with the organization that you represent, click the “Create a new account” link below the “Sign in” button. After you have entered the required information, you will receive a confirmation email that will instruct you to click a link to complete the account creation process. For help with the Illinois.gov Authentication Portal, please browse to www.illinois.gov/sites/accounts/Pages/default.aspx (http://www.illinois.gov/sites/accounts/Pages/default.aspx). Additional instructions may also be found at www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/GranteePortalFAQ.aspx (http://www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Grantee/Pages/GranteePortalFAQ.aspx).

2. Registration


Once your Illinois.gov account is created, you must return to the Grantee Portal log-in screen and enter your user name and password to continue. The system will then ask for your organization’s DUNS number. If the DUNS number for your organization is on record with GATA from the previous year, the system will associate you with your organization. The process may require the approval of the primary GATA system registrant for your organization. After accessing your entity’s registration information, you must click the “Edit” button found near the top of the screen. This will allow you to correct/confirm the listed information and select the appropriate organization type for your entity.

If the DUNS number that you enter is not found in the GATA system, the system will invite you to create a new grantee account for the entity related to that DUNS number. Please confirm that you entered the correct DUNS number before creating a new account. Creation of a new grantee account is accomplished by providing your organization’s:

- DUNS number (click [HERE](https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform) (https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform) to view instructions on obtaining a DUNS number);
- FEIN;
- Organization type (NOTE: school districts, special education joint agreements, and education for employment consortiums should select “School District”);
- Secretary of State ID (NOTE: the following types of organizations have been deemed EXEMPT from this requirement: school districts, colleges, universities, Regional Offices of Education, special education joint agreements, and education for employment consortiums);
- Organization name; and
- Address.

3. Grantee Pre-qualification

All entities must be qualified to do business with the State of Illinois. To be qualified for a grant award, an entity must:

- Be registered in the GATA Grantee Portal system as described above;
- Have a valid DUNS number (click [HERE](https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform) (https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform) to view instructions on obtaining a DUNS number);
- Have a current SAM.gov account (click [HERE](http://www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Documents/How%20to%20Register%20in%20SAMS.pdf)  (http://www.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Documents/How%20to%20Register%20in%20SAMS.pdf) to view instructions on obtaining a SAM Cage Code);
- Not be on the Federal Excluded Parties List (click [HERE](https://www.sam.gov/portal/SAM/?portal:componentId=6fd72bdf-176f-4f82-99b2-bfd794cb124f&interactionstate=JBPNS_r00ABXc0ABBfanNmQnJpZGdIVmld0lkAAAAAQATL2pzZi9mdW5jdGlVbmFsLmpzcAAHX19FT0ZfXw%2a%2a&portal:type=action#1) (https://www.sam.gov/portal/SAM/?portal:componentId=6fd72bdf-176f-4f82-99b2-bfd794cb124f&interactionstate=JBPNS_r00ABXc0ABBfanNmQnJpZGdIVmld0lkAAAAAQATL2pzZi9mdW5jdGlVbmFsLmpzcAAHX19FT0ZfXw%2a%2a&portal:type=action#1) to verify utilizing the Quick Search);
- Be in Good Standing with the Illinois Secretary of State, as applicable (click [HERE](https://www.ilsos.gov/corporatellc/) (https://www.ilsos.gov/corporatellc/) to verify). (NOTE: The following types of organizations have been deemed EXEMPT from this requirement: school districts, colleges, universities, Regional Offices of Education, special education joint agreements, and education for employment consortiums.);
- Not be on the Illinois Stop Payment list; and
- Not be on the Department of Healthcare and Family Services Provider Sanctions list.

Pre-qualification status will be verified after Grantee Registration is submitted and nightly thereafter. If an entity has a pre-qualification issue, the specific issue and remediation support is provided through the Grantee Portal. Entities on the Federal Excluded Parties List are not eligible to do business with the State of Illinois.

4. Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment (ICQ)

Entities must complete an FY 2018 Internal Controls Questionnaire (ICQ) as the Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment. The ICQ is completed annually for each fiscal year. All state agencies will utilize the results of the ICQ. The entity can access the ICQ from the Grantee Portal. The portal provides access to prior year ICQ responses for those entities that received grants in FY 2017. The FY 2018 ICQ template must be completed prior to making application for an FY 2018 grant. The ICQ should be completed by someone with financial or accounting experience.

The status of compliance with each of the requirements described above is displayed in the Grantee Portal for each registered entity. Again, **completion of these four steps is required prior to making application for funding for FY 2018.**

Entities must also complete a programmatic risk assessment for each grant award in FY 2018. **The programmatic risk assessment will be included in each electronic grant application through ISBE. Paper grant applicants will be directed to the IWAS system once applications have been received.**

The SAM.gov registration expires annually and must be renewed to maintain your eligibility for funding. Renewal of your cage code at the SAM.gov web site **does not** require a fee.

The ISBE “GATA Grantee Status Report” provides updated status information for all ISBE grantees and can be found under “Resources” on the left side of the [ISBE GATA website](http://gata.ilsos.gov) (/gata). Please direct any questions you might have related to the GATA registration and pre-qualification process to GATA@isbe.net (mailto:GATA@isbe.net) or (217) 782-5630.

IN BRIEF

Educator Recognition

- **Congrats to Dr. Brian Waterman**, principal at Lyons Township High School in LaGrange, and **Nicholas Cozzi**, owner of Tropical Sno of Western Springs, who have received the **2017 Reaching Out & Building Bridges Award** (<https://prmediarelease.com/illinois-principals-association-recognizes-lagrange-principal/#sthash.d9xQRltw.TXHfJIZU.dpbs>) from the Illinois Principals Association. The award is sponsored by Horace Mann Companies. Great work!
- **Congrats to Brandi Bruley**, principal at North Elementary School in Taylorville, and **Dr. Femi Skanes**, principal at the Al Raby School for Community and Environment in Chicago, for receiving **2017 John Ourth and Dr. Fred Singleton Professional Development Scholarships** (<https://prmediarelease.com/illinois-principals-association-names-professional-development-scholarship-winners/#sthash.3PI2wLiJ.RWq2gXSF.dpbs>), which are sponsored by the Illinois Principals Association. Awesome job!

District Recognition

- Congratulations to the following districts for receiving **District of Distinction** awards from District Administration magazine:
 - **Palos SD 118 - Eighth Grade Capstone Program**; (<https://www.districtadministration.com/dod/awards/eighth-grade-capstone-program>)
 - **Schaumburg SD 54 - ELL Writers Hit the Target**; (<https://www.districtadministration.com/dod/awards/ell-writers-hit-target>)
 - **Oregon CUSD 220 - Open Program** (<https://www.districtadministration.com/dod/awards/open-program>); and
 - **Kankakee SD 111 - Redesign K12 for College, Careers** (<https://www.districtadministration.com/dod/awards/redesign-k12-college-careers>).

School Opportunities

- **Computer Banc** has teamed up with Illinois lawmakers and state officials and agencies to help improve children's access to digital literacy. The program repurposes surplus government computers to provide children access to low-cost learning tools at school and at home. The \$85 computers are available for the 2017-18 school year for Illinois. All computers are Grade A condition and warranted for one full year. For more information, visit [www.ComputerBanc.org](http://www.computerbanc.org/) (<http://www.computerbanc.org/>) or contact David Fowler, executive director, via email at director@computerbanc.org or by phone at (217) 528-9506.
- The Illinois Farm to School Network has opened registration for the **Illinois Harvest of the Month** program for schools and early childhood education sites. For more information, visit <http://harvestillinois.org/> (<http://harvestillinois.org/>).

Upcoming Events

- The **Illinois-Iowa 2017 School Wellness Conference** is being held in Rock Island on Nov. 2. The conference is hosted by Illinois/Iowa Action for Healthy Kids. For more information, visit www.actionforhealthykids.org/component/events/event/515 (<http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/component/events/event/515>).
- The second annual **Leap InnovatED Summit** is taking place Aug. 28 at Hyatt Regency McCormick Place in Chicago. The summit will offer sessions featuring experts in education innovation and widespread networking opportunities. For more information and to register, visit www.leapinnovatedsummit.org/ (<http://www.leapinnovatedsummit.org/>).

Professional Development

- The **Chicago Botanic Garden** is offering professional development opportunities to educators with a limited number of scholarships available for 50 percent off the cost of select workshops for educators working at schools with at least 50 percent of the students receiving free or reduced lunch. For more information, visit www.chicagobotanic.org/education/teacher_programs (http://www.chicagobotanic.org/education/teacher_programs). To be considered for a scholarship, contact Rebecca Ammann at rammann@chicagobotanic.org (<mailto:rammann@chicagobotanic.org>).

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>).