Message From State Superintendent Tony Smith, Ph. D.

I want to thank all of you who reached out to me this past week to wish me well as I start my new position. I am acquainted with some of you through my work as a superintendent; I’ve met some of you through my work at the W. Clement and Jesse V. Stone Foundation in Chicago; and others I am just now meeting for the first time.

Last week I spent time in Springfield and Chicago at both of the agency’s main locations, getting to know the staff and gaining a better understanding of the work they do and the support they provide. I have also spent some time reaching out to various stakeholder groups representing teachers, management, advocates and others. I spent time building new relationships with lawmakers as the legislative session intensifies in the final scheduled month of this session.

I am relatively new to Illinois after relocating here in 2013 for family reasons. My wife, a social worker and educator, is a native of Oak Park and we live in River Forest with our two school-aged children. I was born and raised in California and have experience in rural, suburban and urban schools. I am so thankful for the support I received from teachers, coaches and caring families. I am definitely a product of community schools and proof that educators can guide, shape and positively impact the lives of their students when they help kids feel like they belong. I know from personal experience that all of our students -- with the necessary targeted support -- can meet our high expectations. The opportunity gap in our country can and will close when we work together to include all of our students and their families, hold high goals for all of our students, and provide each child with the support they need to succeed.

In my experience, there is wonderful work happening in schools that too few people in the public know about. I will travel to a variety of districts over the next year looking to celebrate and share the good work you are doing. It’s important that we share the many stories of success that are happening in districts all over Illinois. I am working with stakeholders and staff to put together opportunities for us to interact and get to know each other. We will let you know about those opportunities as the details are worked out.

The Illinois State Board of Education will meet in Springfield on Thursday. The Board will be having a discussion on proration vs. per pupil reductions when necessary to General State Aid. This is a carryover from last month when members discussed the reductions to GSA that were a result of House
Bill 317. They did not wish to change distribution methodology mid-year, but were interested in exploring this further should funding for GSA be insufficient for the full claim in fiscal year 2016.

Thanks,
Tony

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**Upcoming ISBE Dates and Deadlines**

Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings and deadlines. For questions, call the Illinois State Board of Education at (866) 262-6663 or (217) 782-4321 or visit the agency’s official website at [http://www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net).

- Extended Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment (DLM-AA) testing window – March 16 to May 29
- Spring 2015 PARCC ELA/L Field Test Administration – May 4-June 5
- Deadline to apply to be a grant reader for the fiscal year 2016 School Improvement Grant 1003(g) competition – May 15
- No Kid Hungry Illinois Child and Adult Care Food Program At-Risk After-School Meals Grant deadline – May 15
- Part 50 (Evaluation of Educator Licensed Employees under Articles 24A and 34 of the School Code), Part 228 (Transitional Bilingual Education) and Part 600 (Enrollment of and Payment for Nonresident Students at the Philip J. Rock Center and School) – Public comment period ends May 18
- Applications for the Exception to the 1.0 Percent Cap due – May 21
- ISBE offices closed for Memorial Day – May 25
- Deadline to submit Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) program applications – May 29 ([www.isbe.state.il.us/construction/html/qzab.htm](http://www.isbe.state.il.us/construction/html/qzab.htm))
- Application deadline for 2015-16 Student Advisory Council – May 29 ([www.isbe.net/sac](http://www.isbe.net/sac))
- Deadline to complete online survey on the implementation of the new Illinois Learning Standards – May 31 ([www.affect.com/studies/1515003.asp?id=SUPLIST&l=SUPLIST](http://www.affect.com/studies/1515003.asp?id=SUPLIST&l=SUPLIST))
- Part 210 (Illinois Hope and Opportunity Pathways through Education Program), Part 232 (Summer Bridges Program) and Part 240 (Alternative Learning Opportunities Program) – Public comment period ends June 15
- Deadline to submit data in the Student Health Data –Vision system - June 30
- ISBE offices closed for Independence Day – July 3
- Postmark deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in fall 2015 – Friday, Aug. 14, 2015 (See [www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/isbewaivers/default.htm) for public notice requirements for all waiver requests.)
- ISBE offices closed for Labor Day – Sept. 7
- ISBE offices closed for Columbus Day – Oct. 12
- Deadline to submit fiscal year 2016 School District Budget/Joint Agreement Forms to ISBE – Oct. 30
Standards and Assessment

Rejected Student Tests Cleanup for Paper-Based PARCC Assessment

Rejected Student Test Alerts are created when a scanned paper-based student test cannot be matched to a current student record in PearsonAccess Next. To resolve these rejected student tests, follow the procedures posted here.

A “Rejected Student Tests” role has been added to LEA users with valid accounts in PearsonAccess Next. This role will allow the user to view, edit and resolve rejected student tests. LEA users can delegate the role to district staff as desired. The role must be paired with LEA/District Test Coordinator, Non-School/Institution Test Coordinator or Organization Administrator role in order to grant role to others.

Rejected tests will appear as paper materials are processed. Districts should check the system periodically to make sure all rejected tests have been resolved by May 15.

Illinois Learning Standards

ISBE Online Survey of the New Illinois Learning Standards for Educators

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is requesting educators’ participation in an online survey on the implementation of the new Illinois Learning Standards. Participation is crucial to helping ISBE determine the statewide implementation of the standards along with additional supports still needed for educators.

Educators are asked to complete the survey before the end of May. The online survey is completely confidential and is being hosted by a local independent research company, Aeffect Inc. Participants can take the survey from any PC, laptop or mobile device at anytime.

The survey is available at www.affect.com/studies/1515003.asp?id=SUPLIST&l=SUPLIST.

For help with any technical issues with accessing the survey, contact Frank DeMonte, Aeffect’s IT director, at fdemonte@affect.com.

“Toes in the Water,” a Preview of the ISBE Math Splash Conferences 2015

A webinar to discuss the upcoming ISBE Summer Math Splash Conferences is scheduled for May 12.

The conferences will be held in July. This webinar will feature educator guests describing their roles in the Math Splash events, giving viewers a glimpse of what is to come at this dynamic two-day event. Conference topics to be sampled during the webinar include:

- PARCC updates
- Statistics progressions
- EQuIP rubric
- Interactive notebook
- Engaging tasks for elementary teachers

Register online at https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4217147527733276162. After registering, participants will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

- Title: “Toes in the Water,” a Preview of the ISBE Math Splash Conferences 2015
- Date: May 12
- Time: 3:30 p.m.
- Register: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4217147527733276162

Center for Performance

FY 2016 School Technology Revolving Loan Applications

The fiscal year 2016 School Technology Revolving Loan Program (STRLP) application materials for eligible districts and schools have been posted to ISBE’s webpage at www.isbe.net/ed-technology/html/revolving_loan.htm. This year the loan is for school districts serving grades K-8.

Applications will be accepted from June 1 through Dec. 1, 2015.
The loans will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. The STRLP is a three-year loan with a 2 percent interest rate. The amount that each district is eligible to apply for is listed under “Eligible Applicants.”

**Rules and Waivers**

**Notice of Completed Rulemaking**

Please be advised that five sets of amendments recently adopted by ISBE are now in effect. Changes have been posted at [www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm). Please choose “Rules Currently in Effect” and scroll to the Part number.

**Part 25 (Educator Licensure):** Addresses changes necessitated by recently enacted legislation (P.A. 98-751, P.A. 98-872 and P.A. 98-917) concerning requirements for the educator license with stipulations endorsed for career and technical educator, the superintendent endorsement and the principal endorsement, respectively.

*Affected Sections:* 25.70, 25.337, 25.355, 25.360

*Effective Date:* April 27, 2015

**Part 33 (Programs for the Preparation of Superintendents in Illinois):** Makes a technical correction in Section 33.70 to reference the “superintendent” preparation program rather than the “principal” preparation program.

*Affected Section:* 33.70

*Effective Date:* April 27, 2015

**Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant):**

Incorporates requirements specific to the ExceleRate Illinois quality rating and improvement system, and proposes standards for programs serving children from birth to age 3.

*Affected Sections:* 235.20, 235.30, 235.40, 235.50, 235.60, 235.65, 235.67, 235.70, and 235.APPENDIX C

*Effective Date:* April 27, 2015

**Part 252 (Driver Education):** Makes a technical change to update a web address in Section 252.20(e).

*Affected Section:* 252.20

*Effective Date:* April 27, 2015

**Part 1850 (Public Information, Rulemaking and Organization):** Responds to P.A. 98-1129, effective Dec. 3, 2014, regarding requests under FOIA that are considered to be “voluminous” and requests for records that are posted online, necessitating a change in the rules of the Illinois Purchase Care Review Board (IPCRB); includes an appendix listing fees to be charged for materials, as per a directive from the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

*Affected Sections:* 1850.10, 1850.APPENDIX B

*Effective Date:* April 27, 2015

**Illinois P-20 Council**

**Principal and Superintendent Input Sought for Teacher Leadership Survey**

The Illinois P-20 Council Committee on Teacher and Leader Effectiveness is seeking feedback from administrators on what’s happening with teacher leadership throughout the state and the needs that exist.

The committee has developed surveys for principals and superintendents to share their feedback. The survey information will help the committee move forward on supporting preschool through adult education in our state through the teacher leadership lens.

The surveys are available online:

- Principal's Survey [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/illinoisprincipal](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/illinoisprincipal)
- Superintendent's Survey [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/illinoissuperintendents](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/illinoissuperintendents)

The survey should only take about 15 minutes, and responses are completely confidential. Questions about the survey can be directed to Pam Reilly at reillyreillypc@gmail.com.

**Nutrition and Wellness Programs**

**Help Available for HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms Initiative**

Action for Healthy Kids can help schools receive recognition and funding through the HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms initiative.
The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms (HUSSC: SL) is a voluntary initiative established to recognize schools for their efforts to improve food and beverages, teach kids about nutrition and help kids be more physically active. Click here to learn what is required, who should be involved, and where to find more information about the initiative.

Action for Healthy Kids has created materials and resources to help schools get recognized, including a checklist, a sample application and 10-minute mini-webinars to help navigate particular sections of the application. These resources are available at www.actionforhealthykids.org/storage/documents/Resource_page_with_links_FINAL.pdf.

For more information and additional help in completing the HUSSC: SL application, contact Jocelyn Toney at jtoney@actionforhealthykids.org.

**Grants Available for After-School Meals through No Kid Hungry Illinois**

After-school meals serve a critical need for hungry children in Illinois. Many after-school programs already feed students using their own budgets because they recognize that for many students, lunch is a distant memory and they may not get an adequate healthy dinner at home.

Under the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), the USDA offers reimbursements for snacks and meals served at eligible low-income after-school programs (www.isbe.state.il.us/nutrition/pdf/at_risk_fs.pdf). Yet, of the federally funded child nutrition programs, At-Risk After-School Meals are the least utilized. In Illinois, less than 5 percent of students who receive free and reduced-price lunch receive meals after school.

In order to expand access to and participation in the At-Risk After-School Meals Program, No Kid Hungry Illinois and the Rise & Shine Illinois campaign are offering grants of up to $2,500 for schools and organizations to help maximize their ability to provide students with a full supper meal. Grant funds may be used toward staffing, equipment, program costs, outreach materials, transportation and other resources, with the exception of food.

Eligible programs include:
- Starting new CACFP sponsors operating in conjunction with an eligible after-school program
- After-school programs that are already offering snacks through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or CACFP that wish to offer supper meals through the CACFP
- Current CACFP supper sponsors looking to expand or enhance their program to serve more children

The first application deadline is May 15.

Full grant details and a link to the application can be found at http://riseandshineillinois.org/about-us/at-risk-after-school/.

Contact Malaney Varaljay at Rise & Shine Illinois for more information at mvaraljay@gcfd.org or (773) 843-6706.

**Student Recognition**

**Chicago High School Student Earns World Food Prize International Internship**

Chicago high school student Madeline Poole is one of 23 students from 11 states who have earned a prestigious World Food Prize Borlaug-Ruan International Internship.

The students will delve into issues relating to hunger and poverty throughout the world during the eight-week, all-expenses paid summer internships at leading research centers in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Madeline, a junior at Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, will travel to India to work at the Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company (Mahyco) in Jalna.

The Borlaug-Ruan Internship is a unique program that allows student interns to participate in projects with distinguished researchers at leading agricultural research centers and non-governmental organizations around the globe. While getting a firsthand view of real and pressing food security issues and nutrition problems in poverty-stricken areas, the students become an integral part of a project, spending time in
the lab as well as days or weeks at a time in the field conducting research and interviews and gathering data.

To learn more, visit www.worldfoodprize.org/en/youth_programs/borlauguan_international_internship/.

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**System of Support & District Intervention**

**Grant Readers Sought for School Improvement Grant Competition**

ISBE’s System of Support and District Intervention Division is seeking grant readers for the fiscal year 2016 School Improvement Grant 1003(g) competition.

Preferred grant readers should have school or district administrative experience, expertise in school improvement (transformation and reform), previous grant writing and reading experience, program management and experience working with low-performing schools and districts serving specialized populations such as early childhood, students with special needs and linguistically and culturally diverse English Learners. Grant readers should also be familiar with the new School Improvement Grant 1003(g) final requirements as published on the U.S. Department of Education website at www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/02/09/2015-02570/final-requirements-school-improvement-grants-title-i-of-the-elementary-and-secondary-education-act.

Readers will be required to participate in a half-day training that will be delivered via webinar in June and a one-day inter-rater reliability face-to-face training session. Readers are also expected to be available in July to read and score their assigned Request for Proposal (RFP) applications, which will be sent to the readers through a web-based system. Access to a computer with Internet capability and technology literacy will be necessary. An honorarium based on the number of reviews completed on time 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. Individuals working for a district, school or Lead Partner that is currently funded through a School Improvement Grant 1003(g) are not eligible to serve as a grant reviewer.

Candidates should send a letter of interest, detailing their contact information and qualifications in the areas listed above along with a resume or curriculum vitae by May 15 to Rae Clementz, principal consultant, Illinois State Board of Education, System of Support and District Intervention Division, 100 N. First St., Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001 or via e-mail at aclément@isbe.net. Contact Clementz with questions at (217) 524-4832.

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**In Brief**

**Student Opportunities**

- **The Tourette Syndrome Camp Organization** will host its 22th annual Tourette Syndrome Camp USA from June 28 to July 4 at YMCA Camp Duncan in Ingleside. The program is designed for children ages 7-16 with Tourette Syndrome and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. Program cost and financial aid details are available online at www.tourettecamp.com. For more information, contact (773) 465-7536 or email info@tourettecamp.com.

**Professional Development**

- **The Illinois New Teacher Collaborative (INTC)** is presenting a two-day conference for new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) teachers on July 28-29 in Champaign. Priority will be given to first- and second-year teachers, including secondary teachers of math, science, technology and engineering and elementary teachers who teach any STEM content. For more details and to register, visit http://intc.education.illinois.edu/stem.

- Funded by a grant from the Library of Congress, the Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) program provides professional development and ongoing support in the use of primary sources in the classroom, including alignment with current state standards and initiatives. For more information about TPS professional development, please visit www.loc.gov/teachers/tps/about/professional.html. For a list of the 11 TPS partners in Illinois, including contact information, please visit www.loc.gov/teachers/tps/consortium/#il.

- **A workshop for registered nurses** working in schools is scheduled for Aug. 5-6 at Lewis University’s Oak Brook campus. The event is...
aimed at RNs who do not hold an ISBE license as school nurses. The content serves as a basic orientation to school nursing. ISBE-licensed school nurses may also want to attend as a refresher. Nursing contact hours totaling 11.75 hours may be awarded. For more information and pre-registration, contact Linda Gibbons at gibbonli@lewisu.edu or (630) 564-2396.

**Employment Opportunities**

- Watch for vacancy lists and find instructions for applying on ISBE’s Human Resources webpage at http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm.