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ISBE's Weekly Message

November 13, 2019



Hello,

The 98th annual celebration of American Education Week kicks off Nov. 18! This year's theme is "Reach. Educate. Inspire." Each day next week features a special opportunity to honor and celebrate all of the amazing individuals who ensure that our students are supported every single day. The week includes Parents Day on Tuesday, Education Support Professionals Day on Wednesday, Educator for a Day on Thursday, and Substitute Educators Day on Friday. The National Education Association has put together some great resources to help all of us celebrate the week, including free downloadable posters, template letters, sample social media posts, and more.

In honor of American Education Week, I would like to take the opportunity to celebrate the amazing education occurring in Illinois by highlighting the success of three districts that have shown remarkable growth as the result of multi-year improvement efforts. In Carbondale Elementary School District 95, students in all demographic groups grew above the 50th percentile in English language arts and near the 50th percentile in math. This allowed the district to increase the accountability designations of all four schools.

In Queen Bee School District 16 in Glendale Heights, 47 percent of students are Latinx and more than a third of students are English Learners. Queen Bee students in all demographic groups grew between the 68th and 73rd percentiles in English language arts and above the 50th percentile in math. These gains resulted in one school performing among the top 10 percent of all schools in the state and earning the Exemplary designation.

At Gordon Bush Elementary School in East St. Louis School District 189, students grew above the 55th percentile in English language arts and above the 59th percentile in math. Gordon Bush has risen from among the lowest-performing 5 percent of schools in the state to earning the Commendable designation. Keep up the amazing work!

Last week, I announced the upcoming release of a survey to assist ISBE in improving Illinois' existing assessment delivery system. ISBE has a vision to establish an equitable student assessment system aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards that offers educators quick and frequent access to results that can be used to target instruction to student needs during the same year of testing. In addition, the system should be inclusive of all students, including English Learners and students with disabilities, and report timely and accurate results. We aim for a statewide assessment system that creates a healthy balance between federally required year-end summative testing and formative assessments that actively support teaching and learning. We are committed to making improvements thoughtfully over time to accomplish these goals. Therefore, we hope to improve our current system in the near term, as well as plan and implement long-term system enhancements based on your input. I encourage you all to please take some time to provide Assessment System Feedback to help us improve our current system in order to better serve our students, teaching staff, and administrators. Thank you in advance for your vital contribution to this team effort.

Sincerely,



Carmen

DATES AND DEADLINES

Please note this is not a complete list of events, meetings, and deadlines. For more events and details, visit the ISBE Calendar page.

Nov. 13-15	2019 Illinois Education and Technology Conference
Nov. 14	2019-20 Unfilled Position Survey closes in IWAS
Nov. 14	Secondary CTE Program of Study Approval System Opens in IWAS
Nov. 15	Deadline to submit Annual Financial Report to ISBE
Nov. 15	Deadline to submit Nonpublic Registration Renewal Report in IWAS
Nov. 15	Deadline to Submit Limitation of Administrative Costs Worksheets
Nov. 15	Deadline to submit Student Health Immunization and Health Examination data in IWAS
Nov. 18	IL-EMPOWER Webinar: Selecting a Learning Partner
Nov. 21	FY 2021 Budget Hearing in Chicago