

Updates from Gary Green of ISBE

Many of you have inquired about the **Application for Recognition and Calendar in IWAS** as you need access to that system in order to renew your recognition for 2017-18. I regret that the system is still unavailable to you. A number of changes needed to be made to incorporate new understandings of some requirements and new requirements. We are testing these changes to ensure that the software will work for you all once this system is live. We started with a baker's dozen last week but are down to just two now...but one of those two is proving resistant to fixing. Your patience is appreciated. Once it opens, the system will be open for at least a month, so you should have plenty of time to do your renewal.

+ + + + +

As you all probably know, there is a new **tax credit provision** to assist parents of nonpublic school students (35 ILCS 40—Invest in Kids Act). The details of how this program will be implemented are still being worked out. This is a little more complicated than is usually the case with nonpublic school matters because this program requires coordination between the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Revenue. I suspect that Revenue will be the primary source of information in the long run, but I will try to let you know things as I learn them.

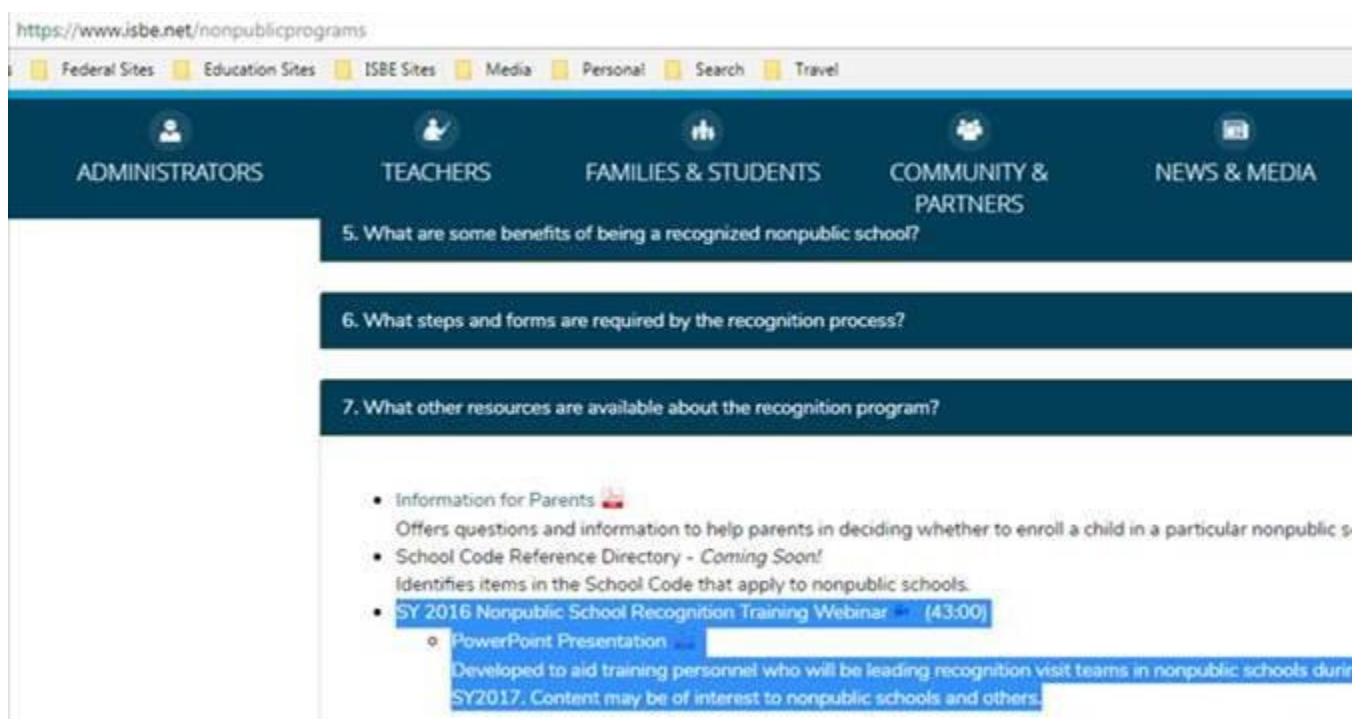
Administrative rules in both agencies must be updated and other work accomplished, so you will want to monitor publications by both agencies if you are interested in the progress on this matter. To this end, amendments for Part 425 (Voluntary Registration and Recognition of Nonpublic Schools), recently reviewed by ISBE, are now available for public comment. The proposals and a summary of the issues involved are available under [Proposed Rules and Amendments](#). The public comment period ends December 18. Because of the requirements of the rulemaking process, I cannot comment on the content of the rules, so please do not ask me about that. Instead, submit any comments or suggestions to rules@isbe.net.

+ + + + +

Last year, a question arose regarding the **reporting of race and ethnicity** for students in our forms for registration of nonpublic schools. Specifically, a school contacted me wondering how to include students who either do not know what race/ethnicity they are or decline to specify a racial/ethnic identity. I finally heard back from our Data Governance Committee this week (government sometimes works slowly!) that they have decided to remain with the categories established for federal reporting (<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/rschstat/guid/raceethnicity/index.html>), so if you have a student who falls into the does not know/declines to specify group, the person completing the registration document for the school must choose on behalf of the student. If any of you need to revise your registration renewal in IWAS in light of this decision, please let me know so we can open your document for you to receive those changes. Thanks for your patience on this matter.

+ + + + +

As we prepare for this year's round of compliance visits for purposes of recognition, we have again delivered and recorded a **webinar to assist team leaders** in navigating this year's version of the evaluation instrument. This recorded webinar is posted to our website (see screen shot below), and schools scheduled to be visited may find it helpful to hear the instructions that we have given to the visiting teams.



+ + + + +

2017 is the **100th anniversary of the entry of the United States into World War I**. As we approach Armistice Day (now known as Veteran's Day), please consider ways to mark this honoring of veterans with some special attention to this anniversary. You may recall that the Armistice took effect at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 and brought to a close a four-year period of astonishingly horrific human carnage worldwide, and thus the centennial anniversary of the Armistice will be next year, November 2018.

+ + + + +

Recall Notice Issued on Vegetable Products—On Oct. 19, Mann Packing of Salinas, Calif., voluntarily recalled some lots of minimally processed vegetable products because they may be contaminated with listeria monocytogenes. The recall has been expanded since that date to include additional product codes. Mann Packing is issuing this recall out of an abundance of caution. To date, public health officials have not reported any illnesses associated with these products. The recalled products were distributed throughout the United States and Canada with "best if used by" dates from Oct. 12 to Oct. 20 listed on the front of the packaging. Please contact your distributor or view the FDA recall notice in the link below for additional details about the affected lot codes.

Products provided through the USDA Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program are affected by this recall. Schools that received these products should have already

been notified by their prime vendor with further instructions. Questions for the U.S. Department of Agriculture can be directed to USDA Foods Feedback at (800) 466-6991. Questions for Mann Packing can be directed to its 24-hour consumer line at (888) 470-2681 or veggiesmadeeasy.com/products. The Defense Logistics Agency point of contact for this activity is CPT Janas Gray, food safety officer, at (215) 737-2934 or dscpconssafofc@dla.mil. More information about this recall, a complete list of affected products, and a list of recalls associated with the Mann Packing recall can be found on the [FDA's website](#).

+ + + + +

There is a new statute that provides for an Illinois **tax credit for teachers who personally buy supplies for their classrooms** that has come to my attention. Here's the text of the statute with some added highlight:

35 ILCS 5/225. Credit for Instructional Materials and Supplies.

For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2017, a taxpayer shall be allowed a credit in the amount paid by the taxpayer during the taxable year for instructional materials and supplies with respect to classroom based instruction in a qualified school, or \$250, whichever is less, provided that the taxpayer is a teacher, instructor, counselor, principal, or aide in a qualified school for at least 900 hours during a school year.

The credit may not be carried back and may not reduce the taxpayer's liability to less than zero. If the amount of the credit exceeds the tax liability for the year, the excess may be carried forward and applied to the tax liability of the 5 taxable years following the excess credit year. The tax credit shall be applied to the earliest year for which there is a tax liability. If there are credits for more than one year that are available to offset a liability, the earlier credit shall be applied first.

For purposes of this Section, the term "materials and supplies" means amounts paid for instructional materials or supplies that are designated for classroom use in any qualified school. For purposes of this Section, the term "qualified school" means a public school or non-public school located in Illinois.

This Section is exempt from the provisions of Section 250.
(Source: P.A. 100-22, eff. 7-6-17.)

I understand that this credit is in addition to a comparable federal tax credit for which I have no statute citation but which is discussed at <https://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc450/tc458>. Don't ask me further about this as the next person to talk to would be a qualified tax professional.

+ + + + +

Registration has started for the USDA Foods Show and Conference, hosted by ISBE and the Illinois School Nutrition Association (ILSNA). The event is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Nov. 28 at the Parke Regency Hotel, 1413 Leslie Drive, in Bloomington. The show includes educational sessions that qualify for training hours as well as the opportunity for school nutrition

staff to see and taste new products. Attendees can earn up to 3.25 professional development continuing education units for the sessions. Registration begins at 7:45 a.m., followed by a welcome session and the following topics: Illinois Commodity System, USDA Foods, Diverting USDA Foods to Processors, DOD Produce, USDA Food Buying Guide and the Recipe Analysis Worksheet, and an ISBE Update. The USDA Foods Show ends the day-long event from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. For more information and to register, visit the [ILSNA website](#) today.

+ + + + +

Sponsors in the **Child and Adult Care Food Program** are encouraged to register for free training offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Team Nutrition. The new webinar series, "CACFP Halftime: Thirty on Thursdays," will cover important topics related to the updated meal patterns. The webinars will be held on the third Thursday of the month. Next up is "Choose Yogurts That Are Lower in Added Sugars" on Nov. 16. A webinar in English will be held from 1-1:30 p.m. A Spanish version is offered 2-2:30 p.m. A webinar on "Serving Milk in the CACFP" is slated for Jan. 18. The webinars are for sponsoring organizations, CACFP providers and program operators, and state agencies. Others who work with CACFP are welcome to attend. For more information and to register, visit the [CACFP Halftime Webinar page](#). All webinars will be recorded and made available at a later date on the [USDA Team Nutrition website](#). Additional resources on the updated meal patterns for CACFP can be found on [ISBE's website](#), under the "Meal Pattern Requirements and Nutrition Information" tab. They include helpful tip sheets on [serving milk](#), [choosing yogurts](#), [choosing breakfast cereals](#), and more.

+ + + + +

The [Illinois Energy Workforce Consortium](#) is offering free materials and an opportunity to win one of three \$250 classroom grants. Email a photo and brief description of how you used the materials with students to illinois@consortia.getintoenergy.com with the subject line "Class Grant Entry." The deadline to submit entries is Jan. 26, 2018. The drawing will take place Feb. 2, 2018, with award presentations occurring in March 2018.

+ + + + +

Looking for a creative student project? The [Made By Milk contest](#) asks a team of students to repurpose milk cartons into a work of art. Entries are due Nov. 15.

+ + + + +

The **2017 Raising Student Achievement Conference (RSAC)** sponsored by the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (IARSS) will be held Dec. 4-5 at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles. This very popular annual conference offers an abundance of presenters on a variety of topics focused on increasing student achievement. [Learn more and register for the conference.](#)

+ + + + +

Applications are due Dec. 8 for **KidsGardening's 2018 Youth Garden Grant**. Any nonprofit organization, public or private school, or youth program in the United States planning a new garden program or expanding an established one that serves at least 15 youth between the ages of 3 and 18 is eligible to apply.

+ + + + +

The Illinois Geographic Alliance is offering a free, one-day workshop for K-12 teachers titled "Geography Education in the 21st Century" on Saturday, Nov. 11, on the Illinois State University campus. There is no registration fee. PD hours will also be provided. [Registration now open](#).

+ + + + +

The School Nutrition Association, U.S. Apple Association, and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture are working together on [Apples4Ed](#). Schools can compete for healthy snacking program grants. Nominations close at the end of November.

+ + + + +

U.S. high school students can apply now for a **full merit-based scholarship to study abroad** during the 2018-19 school year sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Please note that each program has a separate online application process and application deadlines vary from Nov. 2 to Dec. 11. [View the study abroad programs and apply](#).

+ + + + +

Teachers, administrators, and school nutrition professionals from Illinois shared the difference Fuel Up to Play 60 makes in their schools during the **2017 Fuel Up to Play 60 Excellence Awards**, hosted at the Walter Payton Center in Lake Forest, IL. Check out this [video on YouTube](#) posted by the Midwest Dairy Association. Learn more about [Fuel Up to Play 60 online](#).

+ + + + +

The [National Board Resource Center \(NBRC\)](#) is seeking administrators interested in a research-based ongoing professional development opportunity. There are currently 40 National Board Professional Development Schools in Illinois led by administrator leaders. The NBRC is expanding this program to include an additional 25 schools/districts to take part in this opportunity during the 2018-19 school year. This program is school based and includes several research-based instructional strategies that focus on implementing effective teaching approaches that nurture critical thinking. Application deadline is March 26, 2018. Call Debra Kasperski at (309) 438-1833 for more information or to set up an appointment.

Gary A. Greene, Ph.D.
Principal Consultant
Illinois State Board of Education
100 West Randolph Street, 14-300
Chicago, IL 60601
ggreene@isbe.net

312-814-3985 (desk and voice mail)

312-814-2621 (fax)

217-782-3950 (division support staff)

<https://www.isbe.net/nonpublicprograms>