

Parent Announcements - March 1, 2013

ILLINOIS 5ESSENTIALS SURVEY

Senate Bill 7, passed as part of our state's reform agenda in 2011, requires school districts to provide the 5Essentials Survey to teachers, students (grades 6-12) and parents. The 5Essentials Survey provides a comprehensive assessment of school organizational culture with actionable reports to help drive school improvement on five indicators or "essentials." The five essentials are Effective Leaders, Collaborative Teachers, Involved Families, Supportive Environment, and Ambitious Instruction. Schools strong in 3 to 5 of the Essentials are 10 times more likely to improve student learning than schools weak in 3 to 5 of the Essentials. Please take the time to complete the survey. The survey will be an excellent way to showcase our school district.

Key Questions and Answers:

1. When will the survey be conducted? 2012-2013 will be the first year the survey will be administered. This year the survey will be administered between February 1 - March 31, 2013.
2. What school districts are required to participate in the survey? All school districts are required, by legislation, to participate in the survey.
3. Who takes the survey? All 6-12 grade students, all certified teachers, and parents.
4. What types of questions are on the survey? All survey questions offer multiple choice responses. There are no open ended questions.
5. How long will the survey take? On average the survey should only take 15-20 minutes for participants to complete.
6. How will the survey be administered? The survey will be conducted online and be accessible via the Illinois 5Essentials website.
7. When will the survey results be available? School districts will receive their 2012-2013 Illinois 5Essentials Report in June 2013. The results of these surveys will also be included on the State Report Card in October 2013.
8. Is participation mandatory? Participation is completely voluntary. However, 50% of your teaching staff and 30% of your parents must participate in order to generate a report for these measures.

To complete the survey, please click on the appropriate link:

Students = <https://survey.5-essentials.org/Illinois/survey/student/login/>

Teachers = <https://survey.5-essentials.org/Illinois/survey/teacher/login/>

Parents = <https://survey.5-essentials.org/Illinois/survey/parent/login/>

<p>VOCATIONAL STUDENT OF THE MONTH Amber Neff was selected by the Quincy Area Vocational Technical Center to receive the Quincy Rotary "Student of the Month" award for January 2013. Amber is a junior and the daughter of Kevin and Peggy Neff of Augusta. Congratulations!</p>	<p>CULVER STOCKTON SCIENCE FAIR The Southeastern Junior High Science Club was selected as the Outstanding Chapter at the Culver Stockton Science Fair on February 23, 2013. Congratulations!</p>
<p>STATE OF ILLINOIS The state of Illinois owes us \$176,425.</p>	

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING ACTION SUMMARY

Approved the 2013-2014 school calendar as presented.

Approved and set the 2013 Southeastern High School Graduation date for Sunday, May 19, 2013 at Southeastern Junior/Senior High School at 2:00 p.m.

Approved the release of the following closed session minutes for public view: March 26, 2012, April 23, 2012, October 22, 2012, and November 26, 2012.

Approved the employment of Nancy Akers in the position of administrator for 2013-2014 school year with a pay increase of 2.75%.

Approved the employment of Cyle Rigg in the position of administrator for 2013-2014 school year with a pay increase of 2.75%.

Approved the employment of Tim Kerr in the position of administrator for 2013-2014 school year with a pay increase of 2.75%.

Accepted the resignation of Lori Waterstreet at the end of the 2015-2016 school year for the purpose of retirement.

MORE ON THE COMMON CORE STANDARDS/ISAT CUTSCORES

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) recently decided to increase the grading scale for the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). The end result is that the percentage of elementary and middle school students “meeting” or “exceeding” standards is expected to drop substantially when the scores of year’s test are reported next fall – even though their actual scores may increase.

It is the equivalent of a teacher that was using a grading scale of 90-100 equals an A and 80-89 equals a B and then raising it to 94-100 for an A and 88-93 for a B. A good analogy is a pole vaulter who clears the bar at 12 feet, improves his vault to 13 feet, but cannot clear the bar because it has been raised to 15 feet. His performance improved, but the bar was raised even higher.

What impact will the new grading scale have? By aligning the 2012 test scores to the new scale, the percentage of students statewide who met the standard would have dropped from 86 percent in math and 79 percent in reading to 60 percent in both subjects. Again, that does not reflect any drop in scores, just a raising of the bar.

ISBE’s reasoning for raising the scores needed to “meet” or “exceed” the ISAT standards is to better align the ISAT standards with those of the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) administered to 11th-grade students in Illinois, as well as to align it with the new federal Common Core standards designed to indicate college and career readiness.

<p>PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES Parent-Teacher Conferences will be Thursday, March 21 and Friday, March 22. We will have a 2:15 dismissal with conferences being 2:30-4:00.</p>	<p>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL <u>At this time</u>, the last day of school (report card day) will be Thursday, May 23. Obviously, this has the potential to change.</p>	<p>GRADUATION DATE SET The 2013 Southeastern High School Graduation will be Sunday, May 19th at 2:00 p.m. The location will be Southeastern Junior/Senior High School in Augusta, Illinois.</p>
<p>CSE GIRLS BASKETBALL Congratulations to Coach Matt Long and the CSE Girls Basketball Team on their 2013 Regional Championship.</p>	<p>FBLA CONFERENCE Kayla Twidwell won the Battle of the Chapters at the FBLA Western Area Conference on February 8. Kayla is a senior and the daughter of Don Twidwell of Plymouth.</p>	