

Dear Colleague,

I have been impressed with the commitment and dedication that educators in the great state of Illinois have shown not only in their commitment to the growth and learning of their students, but their own personal educational practice.

It is critical as leaders and practitioners that we seek continued education and growth. That's why I hope you will join me at a conference later this year that is designed to support your work and fire your imagination as we strive to cultivate learning environments that work for all students.

The 2024 Multilingual IL/ESSA Statewide Conference is coordinated by the Illinois Resource Center (IRC) in collaboration with ISBE. This year's conference will be held December 10-13, 2024 at the Tinley Park Convention Center, a new venue for this event with increased capacity that is more conveniently located for participants from across the state.

The 2024 Multilingual IL/ESSA Statewide Conference could not come at a better time. Over the past several years, Illinois has embraced an influx of newcomer students from all corners of the world, from Ukraine to the Congo, from Venezuela to Afghanistan. Many districts are welcoming multilingual learners and newcomer students for the first time ever, making the content and subject matter of this conference even more relevant and meaningful. This is one of the most important teacher and administrator gatherings in the state because of the specialized focus on these targeted populations and the educators and administrators who serve them.

This conference will provide attendees with information about best practices, useful innovations, and practical approaches to everyday school management, as well as critical and timely issues. The agenda will feature five outstanding keynote speakers and dozens of dynamic concurrent sessions. The conference also will offer the opportunity for attendees to connect with publishers, technology companies, and other vendors who may aid in your continuous school improvement journey.

We are proud of the thoughtful collaboration and partnership the ISBE team and the IRC have maintained throughout the years of this conference. Our team has been working closely with the IRC to ensure that every activity and concurrent session is meaningful and relevant to our educators and administrators, and the communities they serve. Additionally, I am looking forward to hosting a celebratory dinner to recognize the strides in school improvement that districts and schools across the state have made throughout the past year.

My ISBE team and I look forward to connecting with you at this conference. I encourage you to not only enjoy mingling with your peers from around the state, but to feel at ease with ISBE staff as well. We strive to be a resource for you.

Thank you for joining me for several days of learning, building relationships, and being inspired to do all we can to serve Illinois students.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Sanders". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "S".

Dr. Tony Sanders
State Superintendent of Education