

# ICNS NEWS

SPECIAL EDITION MAY 2020

## **THE MISSION OF ICNS IS TO BE AN ADVOCATE FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS**

ICNS is the voice of nonpublic education in Illinois, ensuring that policy and advocacy agencies are monitored and give a voice as funding and regulations are formulated downstate. We provide the eyes and ears for our schools and need your support to continue this work. We at ICNS are committed to continue our strong advocacy for Illinois Nonpublic School Education.

This is critical this year as we work to continue the Tax Credit Scholarship Program for Illinois. We cannot do this without the collective effort of nonpublic schools across the state. Membership dues are critical to our success. We have as a goal to not only retain our member schools but also to increase participation in ICNS. Our nonpublic schools need ICNS more than ever before.

Thank you for joining ICNS!

[www.icns.net](http://www.icns.net)



The voice of nonpublic education in Illinois

### **CONSIDERATIONS FOR CLOSING THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR AND SUMMER 2020**

This helpful brochure is published by ISBE and available [HERE](#).

### **GUIDANCE FOR RESUMPTION OF INSTRUCTION**

Federal and state agencies are beginning to release guidance for the resumption of in-person instruction. The CDC has provided a decision tree to assist in readiness decisions. Click [HERE](#).

### **ISBE VISION AND DENTAL REPORTING**

Vision and Dental Reporting Systems are now available in IWAS. The reporting period to submit 2019-20 student vision and dental concludes on June 30, 2020. Due to current restrictions, schools may face challenges in obtaining information. Submit the data you have. ISBE will take no punitive action against a school for failure to submit complete dental and vision information.

### **PAYCHECK PROTECTION LOAN FORGIVENESS**

Congratulations to those of you who have received Payroll Protection Program loans. Click [HERE](#) for information to help you track expenses to ensure maximum loan forgiveness. Click [HERE](#) for the application for loan forgiveness. Click [HERE](#) for detailed 5/21/20 information from Vanderbloemen.

### **CAPE - CHOOSING A SCHOOL**

For the parents of more than five million children, the choice is private education. They choose religious and independent schools for many reasons: quality academics, a safe and orderly environment, moral and ethical values, caring teachers, supportive communities, and much more. View CAPE's video [HERE](#) to learn how private schools promote the public good and provide a path to a promising future.

**Will you share the work of ICNS with another school? We will award a free one-year membership to a school who refers a non-member school that joins ICNS.**



### ICNS Featured Schools

As an ICNS member school, you may sign up to be a "featured school" on our website. Please email a short paragraph or two about your school, with a picture and your website address. You may view other featured schools [HERE](#).

### LET YOUR VOICES BE HEARD

The State Council on American Private Education is looking for stories of how the coronavirus epidemic is impacting schools. They will share these anecdotes during their lobbying to help ensure that private school interests are appropriately represented to congressional leaders.

Please send responses to [michael@capenet.org](mailto:michael@capenet.org). He says: "Any information or anecdotes you can send me about how your schools are hurting would be appreciated. Stuff with a personal touch really helps. 'This school has a 100 year track record of serving the poor and is on the verge of closure,' that sort of thing, is especially good. The sooner the better."

### JOB BOARD

Click [here](#) to list your school vacancies on our ICNS Job Board.

### REMOTE LEARNING FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM DISORDER

The spread of the novel coronavirus has resulted in unprecedented changes to the daily lives of children and families. We realize these changes may be particularly challenging for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), who tend to thrive on consistency, structure, and routine. Many learners with ASD may face challenges related to comprehension, communication, difficulty understanding abstract language, an insistence on sameness, and a greater likelihood of anxiety and depression - all of which may be exacerbated during this stressful time.

Many also require specially designed instruction to support their educational needs and daily functioning. As such, the Autism Training and Technical Assistance Project at Illinois State University has compiled [autism-specific resources](#) for individuals with ASD and their families as they navigate remote learning.

### MEALS FOR KIDS SITE FINDER

The USDA has launched an online tool – the “Meals for Kids” Site Finder – to help families find meals for children while schools are closed during the coronavirus pandemic. The “Meals for Kids” interactive map directs people to local sites where kids can get free meals. Click [Here](#) for the map (available in both English and Spanish).



### NEW NOTICE REQUIREMENT

The Department of Labor has instituted a new notice requirement with respect to the laws below. [This notice](#) should be posted in a manner consistent with your other employment notices. In addition, since employees are likely not in the building, we recommend that you also email this document to all employees.

- The Families First Coronavirus Response Act was passed on March 18, 2020 and contains two key provisions affecting employment law, effective April 2, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2020. Please refer to the documents below shared by our colleagues at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops General Counsel’s office for additional details.
- The [Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act](#) is a federal paid sick leave law applying to employers with fewer than 500 employees. Employees taking time off due to COVID-19 illness of themselves or another person they are caring for, or time off to care for a child because the child’s school or childcare center is closed as a COVID-19 precaution may be eligible for this leave. This is in addition to any other paid sick leave you may already offer.
- The [Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act](#) makes significant temporary changes to the FMLA act. Eligible employees are permitted up to 12 weeks of leave due to a qualifying need related to a public health emergency, defined as caring for the employee’s child under age 18 because that child’s school is closed, or childcare is no longer available. The first ten days of eligible leave are unpaid, although an employee may use other forms of paid leave during this waiting period (including leave under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act as described above.) After ten days of unpaid leave, the employer must provide paid leave of at least 2/3 the rate of the employee’s regular salary.
- As small employers, many schools are typically exempt from such laws. However, be aware that these laws may apply to you should you have an ill employee or one that needs to take leave to care for their own children. Employers are eligible for credits against their payroll tax liability for any paid leave made under these two new rules.
- Please note that these are new laws passed with some urgency, so additional guidance may be coming, and changes could conceivably be made.

Stay current on ICNS news, webinars, legislative updates and more at <http://www.icns.net>.