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IF IT'S PILSON IT'S POSSIBLE

State touts \$70 million plan for addressing teacher shortage

By NIKA SCHOONOVER
Capitol News Illinois

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SPRINGFIELD - Gov. JB Pritzker on Friday highlighted a proposed grant program that would direct \$70 million per year over the next three years to school districts facing the greatest teacher shortages.

The Teacher Pipeline Grant Program, which Pritzker included in his budget proposal to lawmakers, would target vacancies in 170 school districts that account for 80 percent of all unfilled teaching positions in Illinois. The districts would have "maximum flexibility" to decide how the funds are disbursed, according to a news release.

Funds could be used for signing bonuses, housing stipends, down-payment assistance and providing residences or apprenticeships, among other hiring incentives. Districts may also use the funding to reimburse tuition and fees or to provide teaching supplies, coaching and additional school support.

"The result will be that over 870,000 Illinois students will

see an improved teacher-student ratio, a critical factor in classroom success," Gov. Pritzker said at a Friday news conference. "Our collective goals are to make sure we have enough great teachers in every classroom."

The governor touted some of his earlier accomplishments aimed at improving the teaching workforce, including increasing the teacher minimum wage, increasing scholarships and grants for aspiring teachers, and reducing the reinstatement fees for a lapsed educator license.

Pritzker also made a call to other teachers in surrounding states to move to Illinois.

"We have surrounding states where teachers are paid less than teachers in the state of Illinois and I want to formally invite every teacher in every state surrounding us to jump over the border," Pritzker said, eliciting laughter from the crowd.

He was joined by newly appointed State Superintendent of Education Tony Sanders, a former superintendent for Elgin Area School District U46, the sec-

ond largest school district in Illinois.

Sanders pointed to Illinois State Board of Education data that shows Illinois schools reported 3,558 unfilled teaching positions as of October 2022.

"These shortages don't just affect students equally. These vacancies are concentrated in bilingual education, special education and STEM," Sanders said. "This is why the teacher pipeline program will target districts with the resources they need to solve locally the challenges they have for recruitment and retention and remove barriers preventing aspiring educators from pursuing a calling to teaching."

In addition to the grant program, ISBE will also spend \$6 million in federal funds to hire a multimedia advertising and marketing firm to create a statewide teacher recruitment campaign.

The governor has spent several recent news conferences publicizing his plans on education issues, including his proposed "Smart Start" program to expand access to preschool and child care throughout the state. In the weeks fol-

lowing his budget address, he visited Springfield, Rockford, East St. Louis, Chicago, Mount Vernon, Chicago, Peoria and Macomb to rally support for the plan.

"When I came into office, the state of Illinois was providing nearly the lowest percentage of school funding for K-12 and P-12," Pritzker said at the Friday news conference. "That was four years ago. But during the last four years, with the General Assembly's help, we've addressed this woeful underfunding of K-12 education with an increase of more than \$1.5 billion from the state of Illinois."

His proposed plan calls for \$250 million to fund the first year of Smart Start and an additional \$350 million aimed at the Evidence Based Funding formula.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide, as well as hundreds of radio and TV stations. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

SCHOOL MENUS

Below are the hot lunch and breakfast menus for the upcoming week at Arcola schools.

LUNCH

• Cold milk and peanut butter and jelly sandwich served with hot lunch daily.

Thursday, March 9 — Pizza quesadilla, mini corn dogs, yogurt, popcorn chicken salad, cornbread, garden salad, baked beans, fruit.

Friday, March 10 — Cheese pizza, sausage & egg grilled cheese, cheese stick, BLTE salad, hot roll, garden salad, steamed broccoli, fruit.

Monday, March 13 — Cheeseburger, ham & cheese sandwich, cheese stick, Caesar salad, Italian bread, french fries, garden salad, fruit.

Tuesday, March 14 — Chicken nachos, white queso, chicken alfredo, Italian bread, hard boiled egg, BLTE salad, blueberry fruit muffin, garden salad, refried beans, fruit.

Wednesday, March 15 — Chicken patty, roll, yogurt, chef salad, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, fruit.

Thursday, March 16 — Spaghetti & meatballs, Italian bread, corn dog, cheese stick,

big mack salad, garden salad, cheesy cauliflower popcorn, fruit.

Friday, March 17 — Cheese pizza, chili dog, hard boiled egg, popcorn chicken salad, fruit muffin, garden salad, baby carrots, ranch dressing, fruit.

BREAKFAST

• Cold milk, cold cereal, fruit & yogurt parfait, assorted juice and fruit will be offered daily.

Thursday, March 9 — Cinnamon roll, cereal, cheese stick, muffin squares.

Friday, March 10 — Sausage biscuit, cereal, cinnamon toast, muffin squares.

Monday, March 13 — Pancakes, cereal, toast & jelly, muffin squares.

Tuesday, March 14 — Egg, bacon & cheese bagel, cereal, yogurt, fruit muffin.

Wednesday, March 15 — Pancakes, cereal, cinnamon toast, fruit muffin.

Thursday, March 16 — Breakfast burrito, cereal, muffin squares.

Friday, March 17 — Biscuits & gravy, sausage patty, cereal, toast & jelly, fruit muffin.

GRAIN MARKETS

As reported by Total Grain Marketing - Arcola at 1:01 p.m., Monday, March 6, 2023.

Corn		Beans	
Cash	\$6.29	Cash	\$15.14
July '23 (futures)	\$6.23	July '23 (futures)	\$15.07

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ARCOLA FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Small Town Church in God's Big Kingdom
311 E. Main St., Arcola, IL 61910
Phone 217-268-3738
www.tchchurch.org
Wednesday, March 8
6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. - COYO at Broomtown Cafe
Sunday, March 12
9:00 a.m. - Sunday School
10:00 a.m. - Worship Service
Guest Speaker - Brent Budd
Elder - Joe Pokornik
Deacon - Ali Penny

ARCOLA FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
Rev. Ivan Jess
Phone 217-268-4769 or 217-276-3020
Sam Miller, SS Supt.
Phone 202-6094
Sunday
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. - Morning Worship (Sign Language Interpreter)
6:00 p.m. - Sunday Evening Service
Wednesday
6:00 p.m. - Bible Study
Missionary Meeting
Second Wednesday of the month

ARCOLA FREE METHODIST CHURCH
219 North Walnut Street
Bill Ramsey, Pastor
Phone 217-268-4501
Cell 217-294-1868
If no answer, call 217-346-2474
Sunday
10:30 a.m. - Morning Worship

ARCOLA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
220 W. Springfield Rd.
Arcola, IL 61910
Pastor Todd Nolen
Phone 217-346-2707
http://tmnolen.wixsite.com/ambc
Facebook: Arcola Missionary Baptist Church
Sunday
10:00 a.m. - Church Service
10:15 a.m. - Children's Sunday School

ARCOLA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
305 E. Jefferson St., Arcola, IL 61910
Phone 217-268-3212
Pastor: Rev. Paula Carmichael
Anita Gilliland, Clerk of Session
Email: arcolapc@consolidated.net
https://arcola.presbyterian.website
Sunday, March 12
9:00 a.m. - Handbell Choir practice
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

ARCOLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
A Place to Encounter Jesus Christ
121 S. Locust, Arcola
Pastor Seth Emerson
Phone 217-268-4287
Website: www.arcolaumethodist.org
Sunday, March 12
9:00 a.m. - Encounter Worship

BOURBON BAPTIST CHURCH
Bourbon, IL
Pastor David Babb
bourbon.baptist@yahoo.com
Sunday
10:00 a.m. - Morning Service
10:45 a.m. - Sunday School

CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF HINDSBORO
Sunday
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service
Wednesday
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study

CHURCH OF CHRIST AT KEMP, IL
132 W. Kemp St., Arcola, IL 61910
Phone 217-508-6456
Sunday
9:30 a.m. - Bible Study
10:30 a.m. - Worship
6:00 p.m. - Worship
Wednesday
6:30 p.m. - Bible Study

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
1100 E. North Line Rd, Tuscola, IL
Phone 217-253-3896
Branch Pres. - Rafael Ruggieri
1st Counselor - Kevin Johnson
2nd Counselor - Keven Lewis
Sunday
9:30 a.m. - Sacrament
10:30 a.m. - Sunday School

EAGLE MOUNTAIN ASSEMBLY OF GOD
401 Sale Street, Tuscola
Phone 217-253-4444
Darin Elder, Pastor
Sunday
10:00 a.m. - Worship
Sunday Evening
6:30 p.m. - Worship
Wednesday
6:30 p.m. - Worship

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ARCOLA
220 E. Main St., Arcola, IL 61910
Pastor Doug McClellan
Phone 217-268-4890
Sunday
9:00 a.m. - Worship Service 10:15 a.m. - Sunday School for children and adults. Everyone welcome.

FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF ARTHUR
320 Surrey Lane, Arthur, IL 61911
Pastor Timothy Froese
Phone 217-543-3024
Email: facarthur@yahoo.com
Sunday
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:15 a.m. - Worship & The Word
Wednesday
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study

HINDSBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Third Wednesday
7:00 p.m. - UM Women Meet
Sunday
9:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
10:30 a.m. - Sunday School

HUMBOLDT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
419 Jefferson Street
Humboldt, IL 61931
Phone 217-856-2369
Pastor Mitch Ramey
Sunday
10:00 a.m. - Worship Service
Second Wednesday
2:00 p.m. - UMW meeting in the church
First Saturday
7:30 a.m. - Men's breakfast at Pagliacci's Restaurant in Mattoon

IGLESIA DEL NAZARENO
Spanish Church of the Nazarene
Rev. Waldemar Perez-Lopez
217 N. Ridge St., Arcola, IL 61910
Phone 217-268-4653
Sunday
10:00 a.m. - Worship Service
6:00 p.m. - Youth Group
Wednesday
7:00 p.m. - Bible study and prayer
Friday
6:00 p.m. - Women's Worship & Bible Study

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
Pastor Jason Braaten
600 E. Northline Road, Tuscola, IL
Phone 217-253-4341
Website: http://immanueltuscola.org
Saturday
5:30 p.m. - Church Service
Sunday
9:00 a.m. - Church Service
10:30 a.m. - Bible Class

LIFEPOINTE CHURCH
Nondenomination / Spirit-Filled
Pastor Scott Howell
700 E. Main St. • Arcola, Illinois
Phone 217-268-4586
Sunday Service
10:30 a.m. - Worship Service
Wednesday
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study

