



# What's New in the Career Information System 2013-2014?

by Lola Lucas

Each year the Illinois Department of Employment Security updates its Career Information System (CIS) with wage and outlook data. The 2013-2014 release has seen a major

redesign giving the screens a fresh look. Another change is the CIS logo, from the boxy one to a swooping arrow that symbolizes onward and upward. New post-secondary schools are included

## Twelve Mini-Occs That Have Been Upgraded to Full Information:



### Medical

Allergists and Immunologists  
Dermatologists  
Midwives  
MRI Technologists  
Phlebotomists  
Radiologists



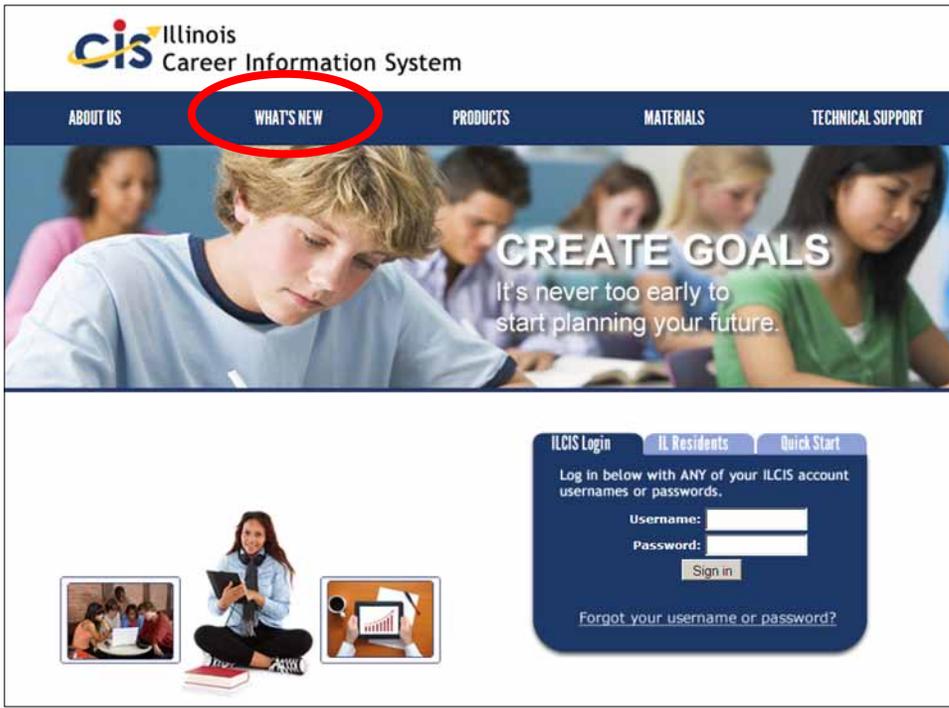
### Environmental

Recycling and Reclamation Workers  
Solar Panel Installers  
Weatherization Installers and Technicians  
Wind Energy Engineers



### Other

Human Resources Specialists  
Video Game Designers



Click on the What's New tab on the blue bar for articles and flyers on specific topics such as the enhanced security measures to guard personal data within CIS.



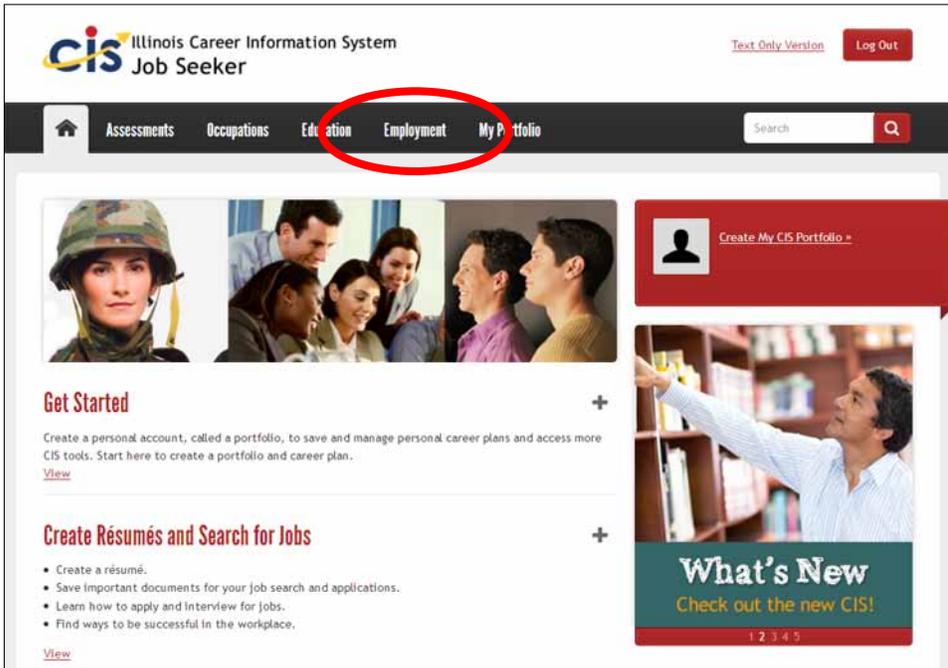
The enhanced Course Planner within students' portfolios shows career pathways and recommended courses which can be modified by districts.

while those that have closed are deleted. Occupations are added and dropped; this year a dozen provisional occupations ("mini-occs") have been upgraded to full information.

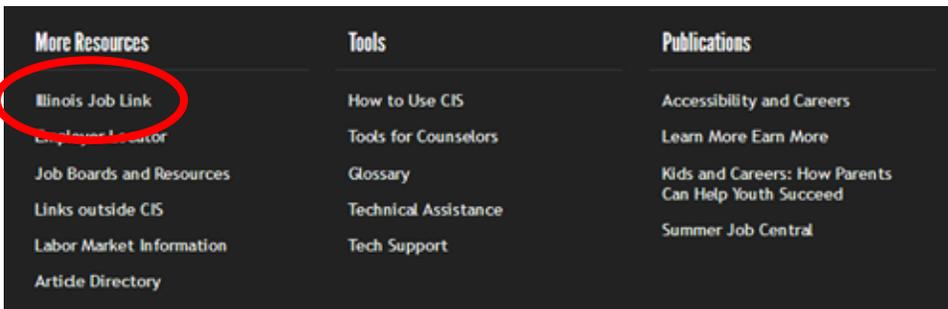
Drop down menus offer easier navigation in all three systems: **CIS Junior** for middle school and junior high, the **Illinois Career Information System (CIS)** for high school and college students, and **CIS Job Seeker** for experienced workers. Scroll to the footers of the home pages of each one for a variety of publications and additional resources. Start at <http://www.ides.illinois.gov/careerinfo> then click to select the appropriate age level. After setting up My CIS Portfolio, all can enter their own usernames and passwords at the universal login page at <https://ilcis.intocareers.org/materials/portal/home.html> - they can bookmark this page or add it to their favorites list to return easily.

Click on the What's New tab on the blue bar for articles and flyers on specific topics such as the enhanced security measures to guard personal data within CIS. The systems now require selecting and answering two security questions. Other new features include a school application tracker and a way to see how Common Core Standards fit with the CIS curriculum for schools. The enhanced Course Planner within students' portfolios shows career pathways and recommended courses which can be modified by districts.

CIS Job Seeker was formerly ReNEW and the name change conveys its target audience. "They want to find jobs,"



*Click on the Employment tab on the black menu bar for the Jobseeker Success Mindset Training modules which teach how to control moods and attitudes during the stress of a job search.*



*IllinoisJobLink.com is linked on every page of CIS and CIS Job Seeker in the footer.*

said Jay Rowell, director of the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES).

Also click on the Employment tab on the black menu bar for the Jobseeker Success Mindset Training modules which teach how to control moods and attitudes during the stress of a job search. Employment Security representative Colleen Neary in Sterling, IL reported, “I use this with

the job club and it really makes a difference. It gives them a whole new way to look at the process.”

The Job Search section under the Employment tabs in CIS and CIS Job Seeker has videos of interview do’s and don’ts with suggestions on how to improve performance and become more employable. This year there is a tutorial for creating résumés in My CIS Portfolio and several résumés can

be saved in the portfolio, along with work samples to share with potential employers.

Illinois is part of a 21 state consortium, called *intoCareers*, and participates in the on-going work of designing systems that best meet the needs of students, parents, teachers, counselors, administrators, agency staff, career changers and job seekers. It helps students become aware of career options and how to pursue them through education and training. Adults who need to find a new career direction also benefit from the assessment tools to discover their interests, skills, values and preferences so they can target the jobs that are right for them. CIS has changed over time from paper and pencil surveys used with books to a robust Internet resource.

[IllinoisJobLink.com](http://IllinoisJobLink.com) is linked on every page of CIS and CIS Job Seeker in the footer. IDES provides Illinois citizens with information to improve education choices from childhood onward and to become successfully employed in a very competitive job market.

Please direct any questions about setting up a school account or general ones on using CIS to [des.icrn@illinois.gov](mailto:des.icrn@illinois.gov).

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