

Capacity Builders: Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan

Overview the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan and the Capacity Builders Series

October 30, 2025

Session 1

Meet the Presenters

Kellyn Sirach

Reading Content Specialist
IL SLD Support Project

Michael Young

Assistant Professor –
Elementary Literacy
Illinois State University

Dara Carr

Regional Office Of
Education #28



Housekeeping

- Today's slide deck can be accessed here:
- All resources are available in a [our shared folder](#) and archived on ISBE's [Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan webpage](#) after each session.



Illinois has an **urgent** and **collective responsibility** to achieve **educational equity** by ensuring that **all** policies, programs, and practices **affirm** the **strengths** that each and **every child** brings within their **diverse backgrounds** and **life experiences**, and by delivering the comprehensive **supports, programs, and educational opportunities** they need to **succeed**.

ISBE Equity Statement



Shared Norms

Empower

Stay future-focused, work toward solutions, and promote progress in every discussion.

Engage

Actively participate by sharing feedback and interacting in both the chat and small groups.

Uplift

Encourage diverse perspectives, provide space for everyone to share their ideas, and embrace discomfort to foster growth.

Unite

Foster a sense of togetherness and openness, ensuring full participation. Make your video available if possible.

Agenda

1

Overview
of Capacity
Builders

2

Context
for the
ILCP

3

Seven
Components
of Literacy

History of the Capacity Builders Series

Capacity Builders is a virtual learning community led by professionals closest to the work, designed to support educators in addressing real-time challenges and advancing educational outcomes.

Now in its fourth iteration, the Capacity Builders Series partners with ROEs and higher education representatives to unpack the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan. This year's focus is on empowering leaders to drive systemic change and improve literacy outcomes.

Previous Series:

- **Illinois Priority Learning Standards Series** (2021 - 2022): Focused on aligning learning standards with local educational needs.
- **Curriculum Evaluation Tool Series** (2022): Supported districts in evaluating and refining their curricula.
- **Statewide Supports Series** (2022-2023): Focused on leveraging statewide supports to improve student performance and align curriculum with priority learning standards.



What Capacity Builders IS

A learning **community** led by those closest to the work, fostering collaboration and real-time solutions.

A practical, **field-driven approach** that meets local schools, districts, and leaders where they are.

A series that focuses on building capacity for **systemic change** in education.

Interactive and **participant centered**, focused on shared expertise.



A **one-size-fits-all** training removed from the realities of daily work in schools and districts.

A **top-down initiative** with limited input from practitioners in the field.

A **passive webinar** series where participants are expected to simply consume information.

Static or **rigid**, lacking adaptation to the evolving needs of educators.

What Capacity Builders IS NOT

Intended Audience

This series is designed specifically for **teachers**. The series objectives define what we aim to accomplish together and keep our planning centered on supporting classroom teachers. Each objective reflects the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan and ensures our work connects big ideas to practical strategies, celebrates student assets, and remains grounded in classroom realities.

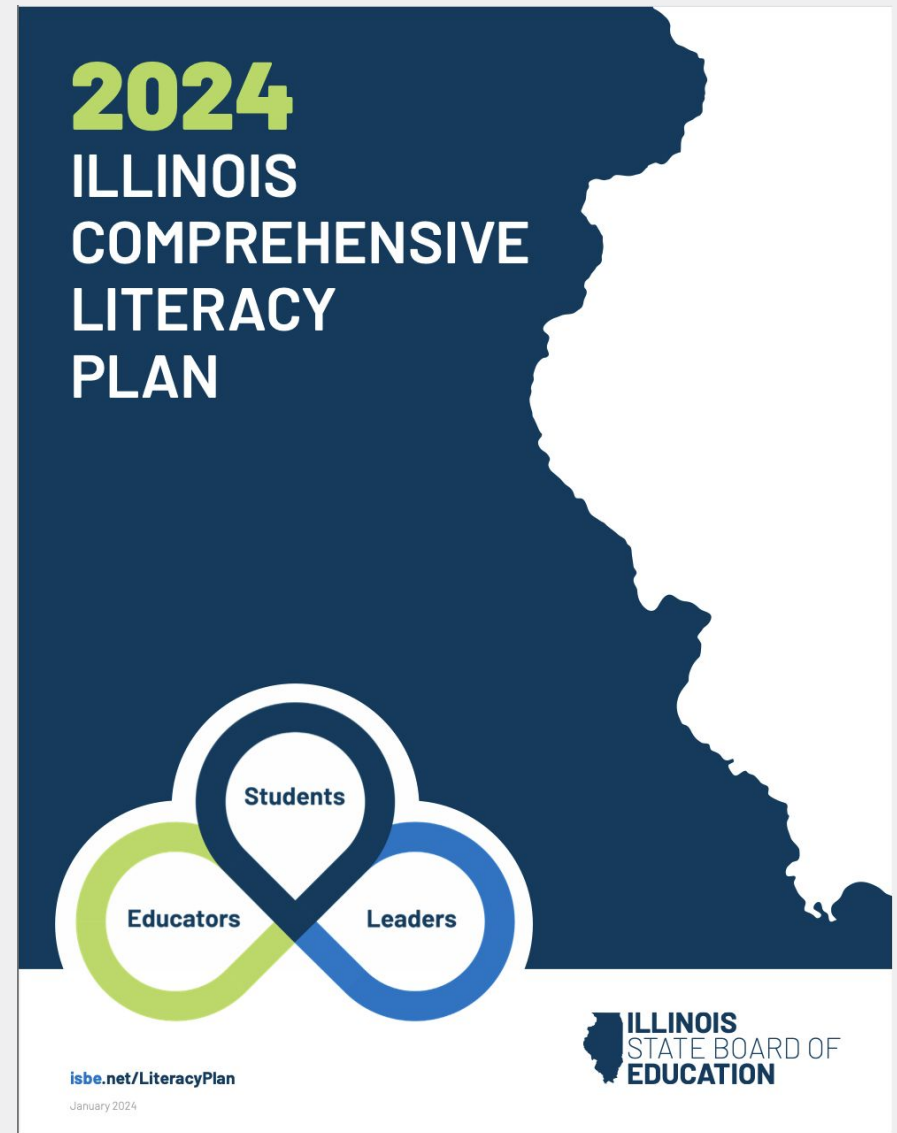
ROE/ISC staff, district and school leaders, coaches literacy specialists, and higher education representatives focused on driving systems-level literacy improvement are also invited and encouraged to attend.

Series Objectives

- **Strengthen Teacher Knowledge and Practice**
- **Connect Big Ideas to Practical Resources**
- **Affirm Linguistic and Cultural Assets**
- **Bridge Research and Classroom Application**
- **Stay Grounded in Classroom Realities**

The Illinois State Board of Education adopted the **Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan** on January 24, 2024. This plan serves as a roadmap to enhance and unify core literacy instruction efforts statewide.

The plan, required by [Public Act 103-0402](#), is the result of extensive engagement with educators and stakeholders across the state and a wide range of community members interested in and affected by the final plan.



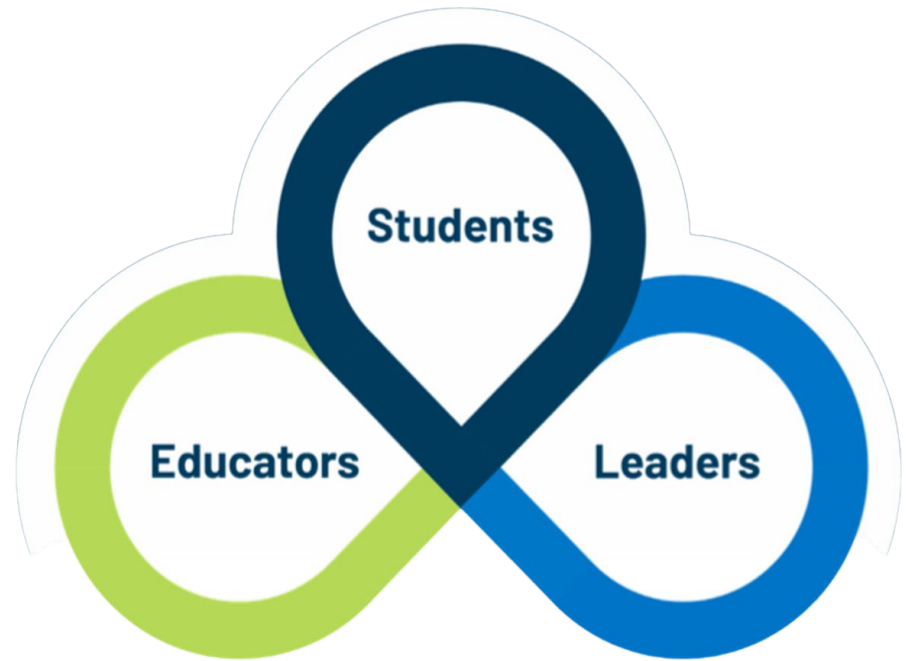
Independent Reflection

- What do we think we know about the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan?
- What do we want to learn about the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan?



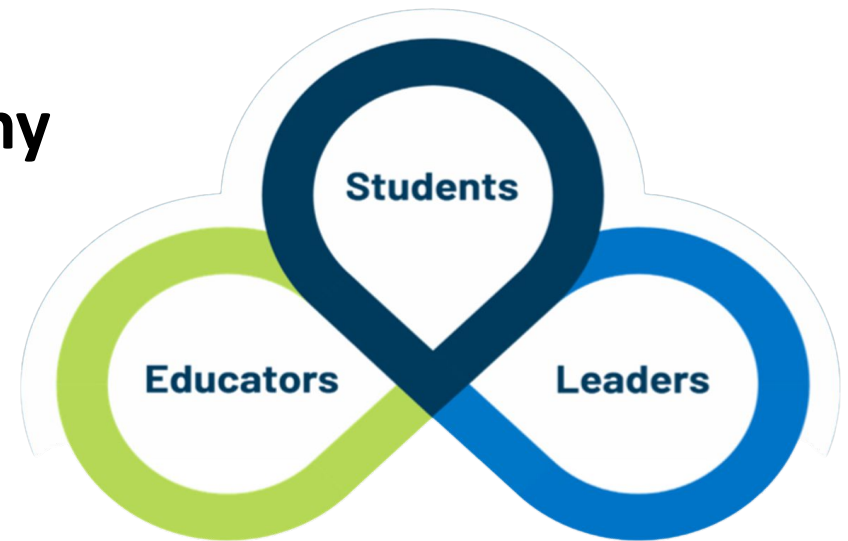
Vision and Purpose

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) believes literacy is an urgent priority necessary to improve student achievement of lifelong literacy skills for successful civic, educational, occupational, and personal engagement. **The Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan (ICLP) acts as a roadmap to enhance and unify core literacy instruction efforts statewide. It is designed to outline necessary supports and resources for literacy reform, ensuring all students receive developmentally appropriate and evidence-based literacy instruction. (ICLP, 2024, p. 8)**



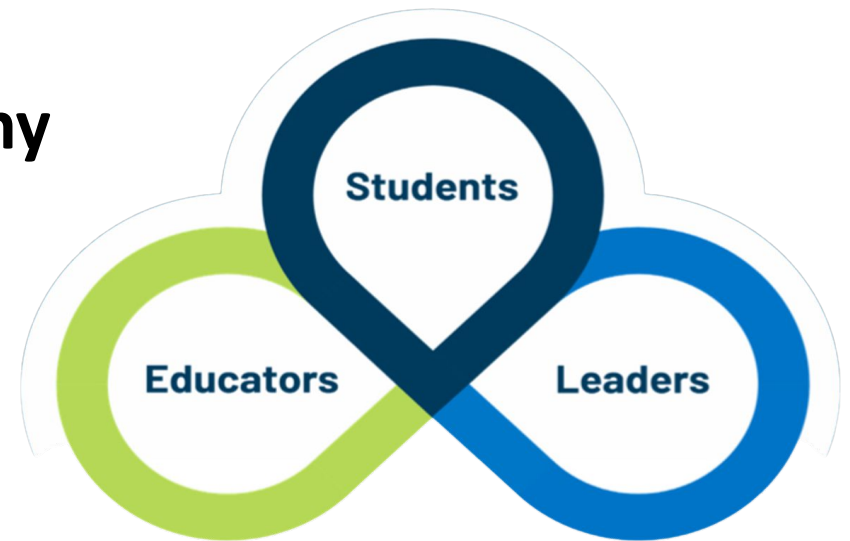
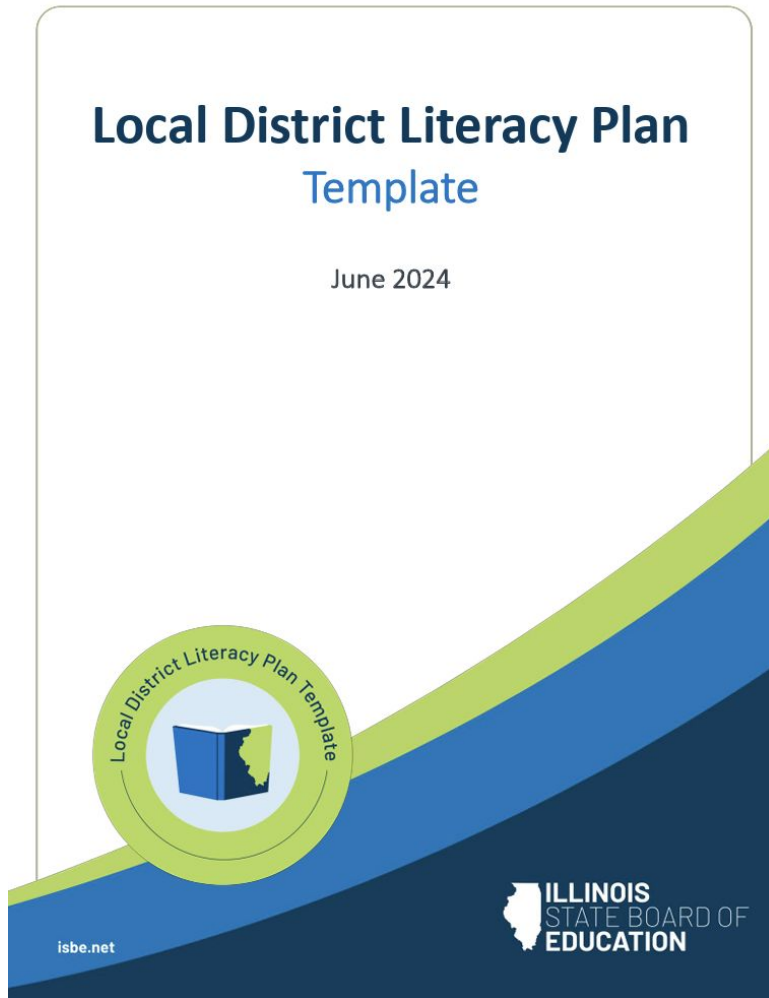
Flexibility and Local Autonomy

The Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan offers a **flexible approach**, aligning with state standards while allowing district-specific adaptations. It **avoids prescribing specific materials or assessments**, while instead **promoting data-informed choices by districts**. This plan cannot address all district-specific contexts and challenges, and, therefore, ISBE encourages each district to carefully consider district and school-level data as it makes decisions related to literacy instruction.



It is imperative within the context of local control that districts **design local assessment strategies and allocate resources based on their unique demographics and context supported by data and current evidence-based instructional practices**.

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Resources

The Illinois State Board of Education has released many resources to accompany the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan. These resources were created to help guide educators, policymakers, and community members, through the literacy plan with ease and clarity.

Check out the resources:

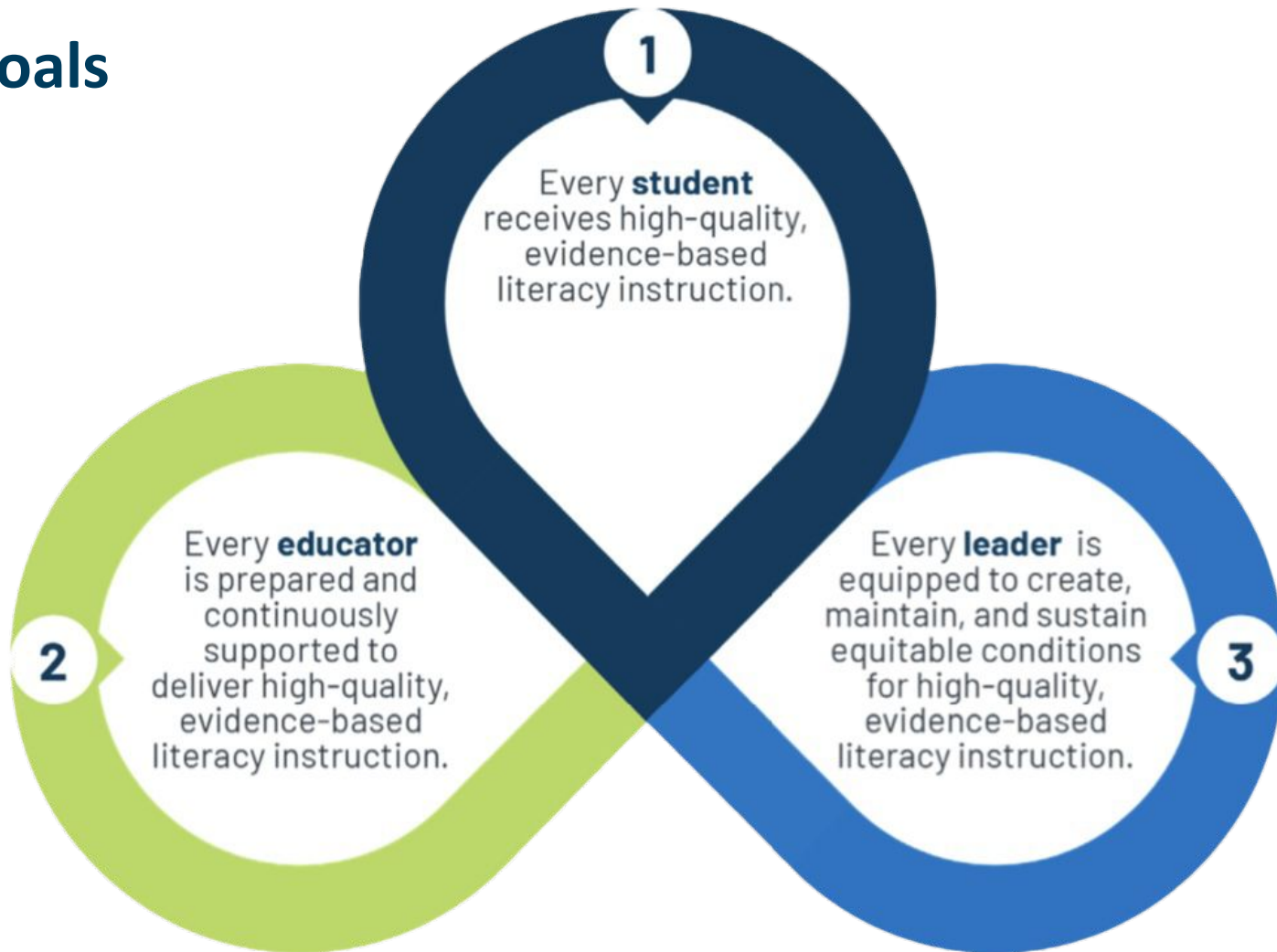
[Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan](#)

Capacity Builder Resources:

[2025-2026 Literacy Capacity Builder Resources](#)



ILCP Goals



Every learner
is capable and has
the right to equitable
access to high-
quality, inclusive,
differentiated, and
evidence-based
literacy instruction.

Every learner
deserves schools that
nurture their unique
assets and interests,
honoring their
complexity within
the context of their
communities.

Every learner
has the right to
develop literacy in two
or more languages to
prepare for success in
our global world.

Every learner
has the right to reliable
and valid assessments
that accurately
measure their literacy
skills.

Every learner
has the right to be
empowered through
agency to self-
advocate within
supportive learning
environments.

CALL TO ACTION
Illinois' Education
systems must prioritize
literacy as a fundamental
goal, recognizing it is
essential in all aspects of
students' lives.



Illinois' Guiding Values for Literacy

Illinois **values** and **affirms** all learners across its diverse communities. ISBE believes that it is important to *recognize and build on every student's strengths, supporting them through challenges* to guide and *shape their literacy* development. Illinois' Guiding Values for Literacy illustrates the core tenants at the heart of this work.



(ICPL, 2024, p. 12-13)

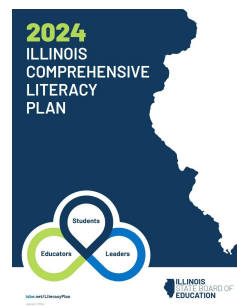


Every learner has the right to develop literacy in two or more languages to prepare for success in our global world.	Every learner has the right to be empowered through agency to self- advocate within supportive learning environments.	Every learner has the right to reliable and valid assessments that accurately measure their literacy skills.
EQUITABLE LITERACY EDUCATION		
• Leverages students' language practices and ways of showing what they know; • Contextualizes literacy and language learning in explicit, authentic, and meaningful ways; • Adapts to students' sociocultural experiences and language needs; • Offers culturally and linguistically responsive scaffolding that supports early identification measures.	• Fosters the joy of reading, encourages student choice, and cultivates independent reading habits; • Optimizes the relationship between receptive and expressive modes of communication; • Develops critical literacy skills to mastery, enabling all learners to thoroughly examine, analyze, and evaluate texts for power, equity, and social justice; • Recognizes every student's linguistic knowledge; • Engages multiple modalities for students to demonstrate knowledge.	• Supports educators with resources, professional learning, student-centered support systems for high-quality, evidence-based literacy practices; • Identifies and adjusts to evolving learning needs; • Incorporates ongoing, evidence-based support for students who struggle with literacy; • Employs comprehensive, adaptable support across all learning areas and levels, incorporating various educational strategies and tools.

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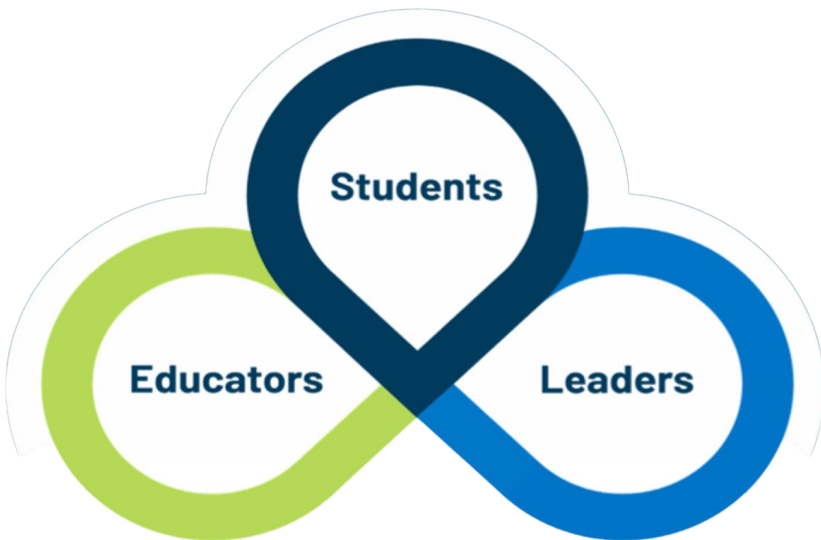
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Values and Discussion

Take a moment to review the descriptors for each of the goal statements. They can be found [here](#).

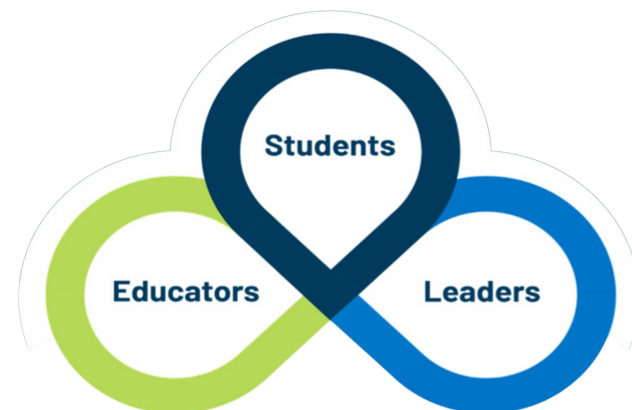
Framing Our Thinking:

- What resonates (think: connections)?
- What challenges your thinking (think: what; but how)?
- What are areas of learning will be important to realize these values?



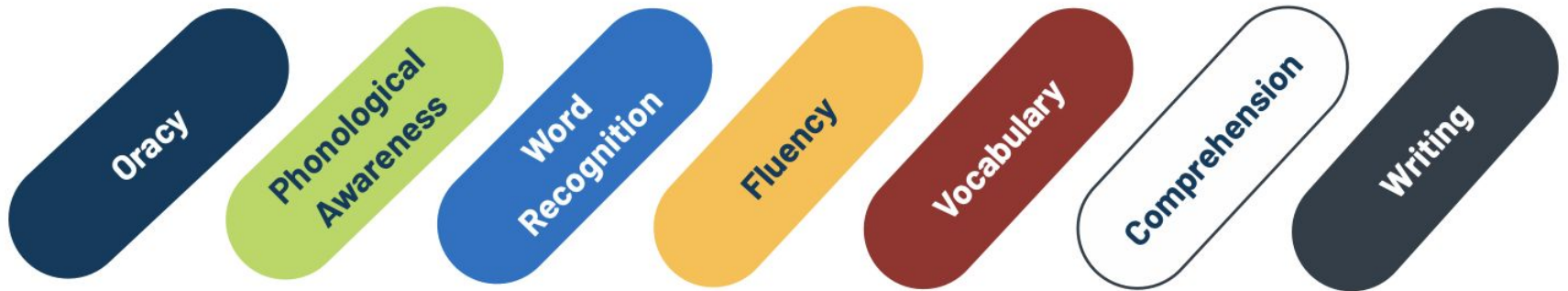
Breakout Conversations

- What resonates (think: connections)?
- What challenges your thinking (think: what; but how)?
- What areas of learning will be important to realize these values?
- What work have you done around a local literacy plan in your context?
- What are you hoping to learn and be able to do through this professional learning series?

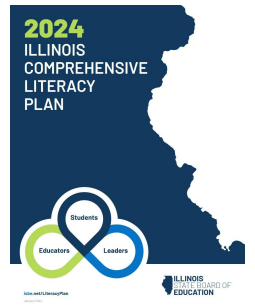


[Note Catcher](#)
[Link](#)

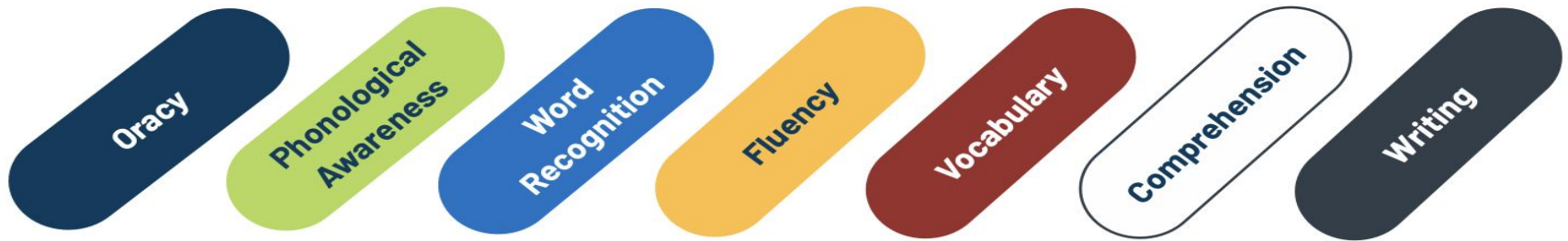
7 COMPONENTS OF LITERACY



[Seven Components of Literacy](#)
[Seven-Components-Literacy-Poster.pdf](#)



7 COMPONENTS OF LITERACY

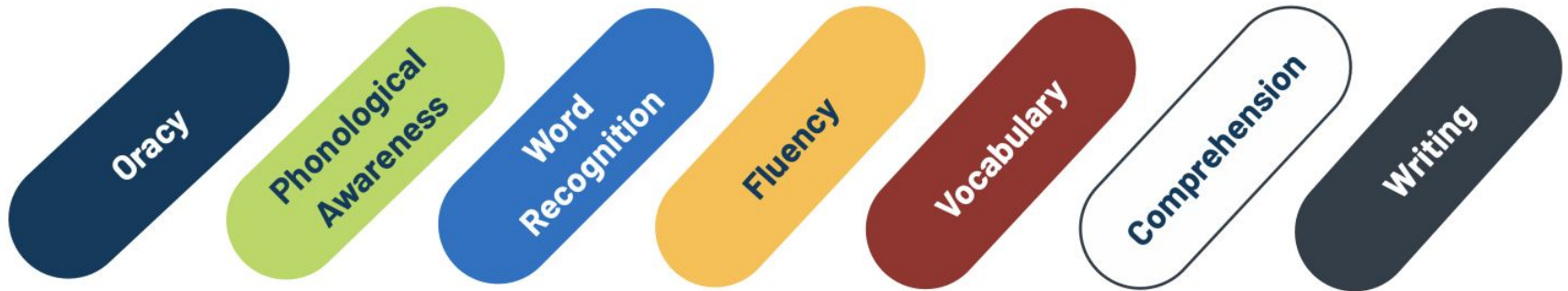


Independent Reflection

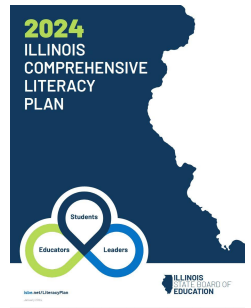
- What do we think we know about the components?
- Which components do we feel are a strength area in our practice/setting/context?
- Which components do we feel less confidence?



7 COMPONENTS OF LITERACY



[Seven Components of Literacy](#)
[Seven-Components-Literacy-Poster.pdf](#)



Oracy

What?

The skill of effective communication through rich vocabulary, complex syntax, and comprehension through dialogue.

Essential for ensuring a solid foundation of reading & writing skills



Oracy

Why?

- Fosters critical thinking
- Lays the foundation for reading and writing
- Effective communication

Phonological Awareness

What?

The ability to manipulate spoken parts of words.

A subset of phonological awareness is phonemic awareness.



Phonological Awareness

Why?

- To read, you must transfer the print to speech
- To spell, you must transfer speech to print
- Written language is the representation of spoken language
- Supports acquisition of the alphabetic principle

Word Recognition

What?

The efficient, accurate identification & ability to read words.

Includes: phonics, decoding, morphology, encoding, sight recognition



Word Recognition

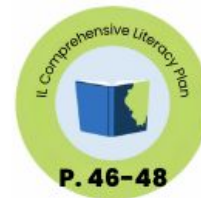
Why?

- English is a morphophonemic language
- 26 letters represent ~44 speech sounds

Fluency

What?

Accurate, fluent reading for meaning that is effortless and with expression, if reading out loud.



Fluency

Why?

- Fluency is a bridge between decoding and reading comprehension
- Accurate & effortless reading of text is **NECESSARY**, but not sufficient prerequisite to reading comprehension

Vocabulary

What?

Word knowledge for effective communication.

Expressive (Oral) Vocabulary → Words we use when speaking & listening

Receptive (Reading) Vocabulary → Words we use in reading and writing



Vocabulary

Why?

- Effective communication
- Supports comprehension and decoding
(students have an easier time decoding words that are in their oral vocabulary)
- Language and listening comprehension → supports reading comprehension!

Comprehension

What?

THE GOAL: Making meaning from text



Comprehension

Why?

- Third grade and beyond, most instruction happens through reading in all content areas
- Knowledge, understanding, and community!

Writing

What?

The coherent expression of thoughts and ideas in print.



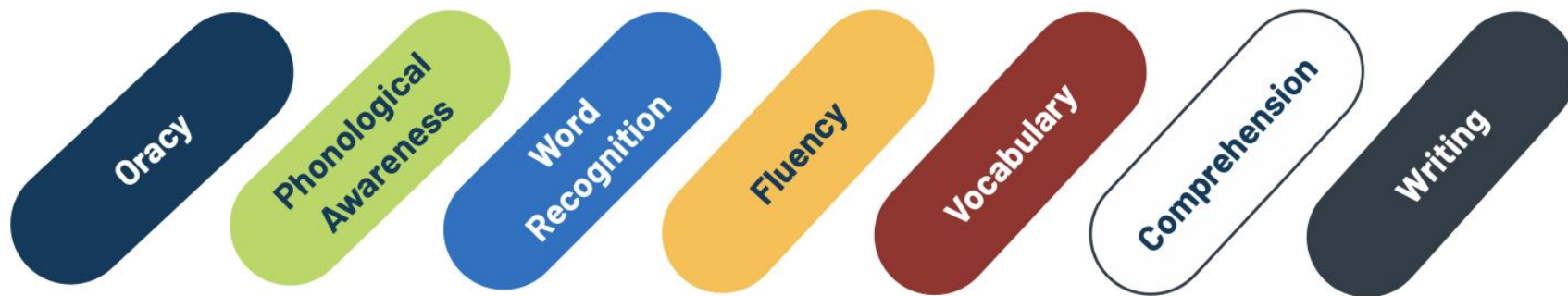
Writing

Why?

- Communication methods, but also a tool for cognitive development, structuring ideas, reflection, and critical thinking.

Breakout Conversations

7 COMPONENTS OF LITERACY

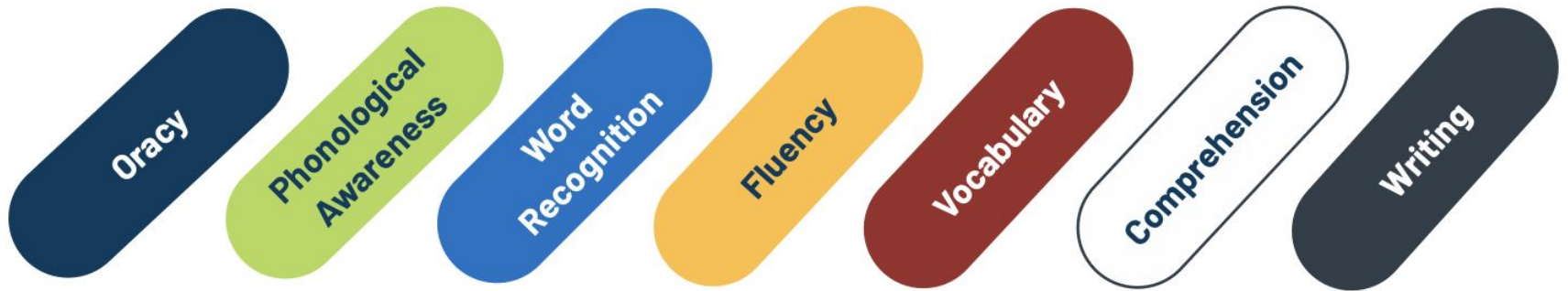


Revisit your independent reflection from earlier.

- What would you add?
- What would you change?
- Which areas do you feel most confident in?
- What questions do you have?

Share Out

7 COMPONENTS OF LITERACY



Revisit your independent reflection from earlier.

- What would you add?
- What would you change?
- Which areas do you feel most confident in?
- What questions do you have?

What's Next?

Mark Your Calendars: 2025-2026 Capacity Builders

- 10/30/25 Session 1: Introduction to the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan
- **11/13/25 Session 2**
- 12/18/25 Session 3
- 1/22/26 Session 4
- 2/19/26 Session 5
- 3/19/26 Session 6
- 4/16/26 Session 7
- 5/21/25 Session 8



Evaluation

[Evaluation | Session 1: 2025 Overview of the ICLP and Capacity Builders Series – Fill out form](#)

Evaluation | Session 1: 2025 Overview of the ICLP and Capacity Builders Series



Resources for YOU!



<https://bit.ly/ICLPCB25>

PDHs

Capacity Builders: ICLP Lead Team

Dara Carr

Professional Development/School Improvement | BHS ROE #28

Johnna Terwelp

Professional Learning Coordinator | Regional Office of Education #1

Molly Allen

Assistant Regional Superintendent | Regional Office of Education #17

Chrissy Wiggs

Professional Development Director | Regional Office of Education #21

Saranja Hicks

ELA Curriculum & Instruction Specialist | South Cook ISC

Kim Johnson

ELA Principal Consultant | Illinois State Board of Education

Kellyn Sirach

Reading Content Specialist | IL SLD Support Project

Scott Filkins

Lecturer & K-12 Licensure Programs Coordinator | UIUC

Kristen Driscoll

Assistant Professor, Curriculum & Instruction | UIUC

Deborah MacPhee

Professor, Elementary Literacy | Illinois State University

Michael Young

Assistant Professor, Elementary Literacy | Illinois State University

Jess Rodriguez

Early Writing Content Specialist | IL SLD Support Project



Questions



thank you