



**Illinois  
State Board of  
Education**



# Curriculum Evaluation Tool (CET) Capacity Building Series

**October 2021**

**Equity • Quality • Collaboration • Community**

# Changing your name in Zoom



- Click “Participants” at bottom of window
- Hover over your name and click “More” then “Rename”
- BEFORE your name, please add the number that corresponds to your ROE area number (1-6)
  - Example: 3 Erica T (ISBE she/her)



# Welcome



- Please sign in using the [LINK](#) in the chat feature
- Link to slides IN THE CHAT
- All resources are archived on ISBE's [Learning Standards](#) webpage.
  - <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Learning-Standards.aspx>
- Navigating Zoom
  - Video Controls
  - Microphone
  - Chat
  - Breakout Rooms



# Brief History



## ISBE + Ed Reports Partnered

Ed Reports provided multiple trainings for ISBE staff and agency leads to build capacity around quality curriculum.



## Development of the CET

ISBE worked cross-departmentally to develop the Curriculum Evaluation Tool (CET).



## ISBE Piloted the CET with 5% of districts

After the pilot, ISBE received feedback from participating districts and made adjustments to the CET.

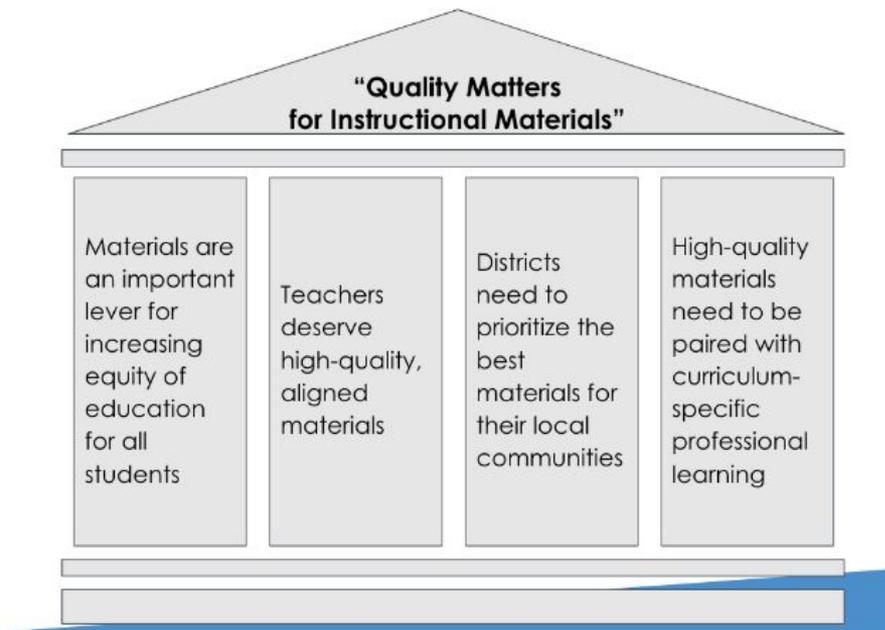


## ISBE +ROE Partnering

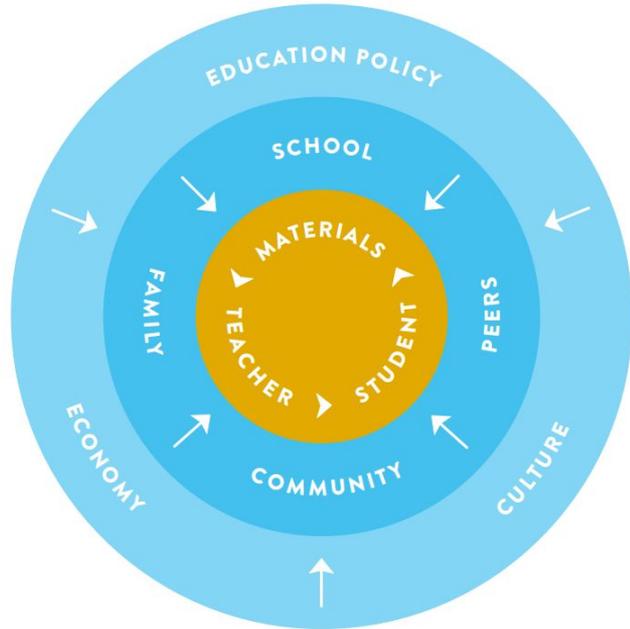
ISBE and the ROE are partnering to build capacity around the different components of the CET.



# Pillars



# Curriculum Matters



Students deserve high quality materials that are standards-aligned, honor and reflect the diversity of students, and support the development of their critical thinking skills.

- Yet, over  $\frac{3}{4}$  of students' instructional time is spent on materials that are not aligned or at grade level.<sup>1</sup>



# Curriculum Matters



- Curriculum materials are meant to support teachers in ensuring students have a coherent educational experience. Yet...
  - teachers with limited access to quality curriculum are spending as much as 7-12 hours a week searching the internet and building materials from scratch <sup>2</sup> yet...
    - most of the materials sourced are not vetted or aligned to standards and do not support diverse learners





# Curriculum Matters

## ***Intended use of the Curriculum Evaluation Tool***

*ISBE supports best practices and continuous quality improvement, including an emphasis on equity and diversity, and the selection of high-quality instructional materials. ISBE encourages districts to use this tool to help evaluate their curriculum, foster meaningful discussions, and make decisions about the selection of new materials as appropriate.*



# BREAKOUT ROOM ACTIVITY

Groups of 5-6

8-10 minutes

When the timer ends, please finish your thought and return to the main room within 1 minute.

Directions:

1. Introduce yourselves
2. Review the [ISBE Curriculum Evaluation Tool](#).
3. Discuss: What do you notice? What do you wonder?

Use the interactive slides for your group to record your thoughts



## **Notice....**

Type here...

Like the different buckets- curriculum, assessment and implementation

Includes equity piece- all students represented

Resources for scaffolding and remediation

Creative specifically for IL schools

Alignment to new law, Student Online Personal Protection Act (SOPPA)

Community Parent Piece

Good jumping off spot.



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## **Wonder....**



Type here...

Who is going to deliver the message of this document to districts- ISBE or ROE?

Once evaluate, is there a journey that will come with this? Is that up to the district?

Yes/ no seems all or nothing, no inbetween

### *Notice....*

- Diversity was highly covered.
- Differentiation was covered.
- Multiple opportunities for assessment.
- Tiered approach to assessment.
- Noting that the assessment must reflect the standard.
- Appreciated the addition of digital learning.

### *Wonder....*



- Is there a glossary or some way to have common language?
  - Differentiation - maybe use “wide variety of appropriate instructional strategies”
- Confusion over how often to conduct the needs assessment - annually?
  - Is this in response to state assessments or common assessments?



## *Notice....*

- Evidence column is a good addition
- Lots different categories to evaluate (assessments, etc)
- Digital Learning Considerations

## *Wonder....*



- How is training for the new curriculum addressed?
- Will there be pushback from districts that have already purchased new curriculum? We need to prepared for those questions.
- Implementation C5- providing perspective on district leadership more than district curriculum.



### *Notice....*

- A5 is missing a parenthesis before e.g.
- Intersection with technology is a plus
- Would like to see more on the equity and diversity- a mention is not really enough
- Supplemental materials- need more mention or ways to go through additional materials
- Nice to see A10- would like to see how it develops over tiers
- Like the vertical and horizontal alignment is part of this tool
- C6- like the idea of time to disaggregate data to determine the effectiveness of the curriculum, could be broken up a little more

### *Wonder....*



- Cost for upkeep and renewal of the programs
- Is this a starting discussion to dive much deeper into a resource
- C1- not a one stop and done. Is the PD ongoing. Is coaching and modeling available over time
- Value of parent, community, and student input- this is hard for the nitty gritty piece of picking curriculum
- Train the trainer model for different resources-



## Notice....

- Remediation & enrichment are listed - not just serving the middle.
- Developmentally appropriate & grade level appropriateness interspersed
- Equity - multiple perspectives and identities.
- Focus on assessment
- Deep learning - not rote learning
- Parent & community aspect articulated
- Annual review (program evaluation) part of process
- Integration of technology
- District providing professional learning to support teachers & implementation
- Tool could be used and expanded upon depending on subject area as part of an audit process
- Conversations may need to be structured differently with smaller, rural districts who may not have internal support. Tool helpful for these districts.

## Wonder....

- Parent & community input - what does this look like? How feasible is this?
- Are there recommendations for teacher support? May vary by district and teacher experience...
- How much time will the process take to complete?
- How will districts receive this tool and information?
- 



## ***Notice....***

This is a diverse tool.

Many stakeholders were given input to shape the tool.  
(over the summer)



## ***Wonder....***



Some districts might have this already, but is a great comparison tool. Would they use it?

For other districts that don't have anything, this is a great baseline. Would they use it?

What was the science tool that was shared? How does this compare?

Who would be sharing this message forward to districts?  
*These meetings are serving as a time to build capacity to share with each of the school districts.*

Where do the criteria/components come from in each of the areas? Is it research based?

*This is based off ISBE's strategic plan. This is also work with EdReports and they helped to develop what should be in the tool.*

# Purpose of the Curriculum Evaluation Tool



## ***Intended use of the Curriculum Evaluation Tool***

*ISBE supports best practices and continuous quality improvement, including an emphasis on equity and diversity, and the selection of high-quality instructional materials. ISBE encourages districts to use this tool to help evaluate their curriculum, foster meaningful discussions, and make decisions about the selection of new materials as appropriate.*

**Focus is on systems and processes within the district to ensure alignment with continuous improvement efforts, assessment, and best practices for ALL students. NOT an evaluation of individual curricular resources.**



# Breakout Room Activity



Groups of 5-6

8-10 minutes

When the timer ends, please finish your thought and return to the main room within 1 minute.

Discuss:

1. What conversations have you had with your districts?
2. Do you know where your districts are at on evaluation of curriculum?
3. Are your districts currently using a curriculum evaluation tool? If so, how might it compare to the ISBE tool?

Use the interactive slides for your group to record your thoughts





# Group 1

- Some districts looking for a new series- use this as a guide

- Helpful to districts especially rural districts who wear multiple hats

- Some districts use to find out curriculum gaps. Especially for small districts

- Teachers to look at what works and what doesn't

- Learn about district needs during countywide networking meetings

- Send needs assessment surveys

- Some districts never considered doing an evaluation tool

- Used from principal mentoring

- 



# Group 2



- Just beginning conversations...



- Conversations have been centered around curriculum adoptions especially with spending ESSER \$\$

- Not evaluating current curriculums...focusing on evaluating new curriculum adoptions.

- Thorough evaluation of adoption curriculums. None for current curriculums.

- Districts are more focused on evaluating where students are at more than curriculum being used.

- Shifting focus from evaluating students to evaluating curriculum.



# Group 3



- Beginning conversations for school districts who have reached out to purchase new curricular resources

- Office has people available to assist with ELA/Reading reviews and Math reviews

- Rural districts- older curricular resources- high turnover- lack of educational leaders

- We know about those that have reached out

- Word of mouth is helpful for adoption purposes

- 

- We have curriculum directors list their current curricular resources and list pros and cons each year

- It would be nice to have time for districts using similar curricular resources to have time to talk together

- 



# Group 4



- Variety of large and small districts. Larger districts have processes/systems in place, but could benefit from this tool to reflect on the process.

- Small districts seem to be more in need of a tool like this. Time is an obstacle for smaller districts with limited resources. How to support?

- Could smaller districts use this in a scaffolded approach?



# Group 5



- Some districts are asking for curriculum audits. This tools would be a great compliment to this conversation. It is on people’s minds.

- High commitment level to this work and these conversations. How do we make this part of the continuous school improvement process?



- Districts have not taken a deep dive into curriculum at this level of conversation

- Teacher turnover also a challenge we will need navigate. May also be used to “sell” the process to districts and implement best practices with fidelity.



- Why are you talking about curriculum? What’s the vision/purpose? Does everyone understand the why?

- Opportunity for these conversations based on new money, addressing needs from pandemic, and teacher shortage. Are we responding or reacting?



# Group 6



- For districts that already use something, make sure to compare to this type of tool. Is your document similar?

- Use this tool to identify if your current practice is working? Do you need supplemental resources?

- Diversity and inclusion are great additions to think about

- This will be helpful for the districts as they cycle through curriculum and resource adoptions.

- Teachers are focused on alignment to standards, ease, additional resources. There are other things that matter too and this addresses those things

- Committees can look at before taking to the whole staff.

- This impacts small districts because there are fewer people to tap as resources

- Time is a limiting factor

- Are admin skilled at the necessary components of curriculum adoption?



# Purpose of Capacity Builders



## ***Capacity Building:***

Tasks and activities to create, expand, or strengthen an organization's system or processes.

Allows the organization and the community achieve its mission and sustain work and supports.



# Purpose of Capacity Builders



- Participate in monthly capacity building informational sessions and PLCs, including networking and sharing implementation & best practices
- Facilitate differentiated regional and/or district level PLCs and coaching, related to scope of work - including use state tools and resources
- Provide feedback on resources to the Development Team
- Differentiate state tools and resources to meet the needs of LEAs in service regions on a regular basis
- **Curriculum Evaluation Tool Work:** Use the Curriculum Evaluation Tool and process with 25% of districts in respective service areas ([State Strategic Plan](#)).



# Outlay of the Series



Funding

Future Sessions



# Resources



[Curriculum Evaluation Tool](#)

[State Strategic Plan](#)

[EdReports](#)



# Meeting Dates & Times



## Upcoming Zoom Meetings 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Mark your calendars!

November 22

December 20

January 31

February 28

March 28

May 2

June 6



# Monthly Outline for Capacity Building



November 22	CET Tool Deep Dive: Curriculum Component
December 20	CET Tool Deep Dive: Assessment Component
January 31	CET Tool Deep Dive: Implementation & Supports Component
February 28	CET Tool Deep Dive: Implementation & Supports Component
March 28	Networking & Problem Solving, Implementation of CET, Data Review
May 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supports for identified gaps in process/policy</li><li>• Wrap-up and feedback</li><li>• Next steps</li><li>• Preview for next year's sessions</li></ul>



# Virtual Parking Lot

ask your questions, answer questions, give advise and add new slides for more room.

- Questions?

