



Illinois State Board of Education

Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading WestEd Partnership Frequently Asked Questions

What is WestEd and why is ISBE partnering with it?

WestEd is a research, development, and service agency working to achieve excellence and equity within education. [Read more about their work here.](#)

All Illinois educator preparation providers must redesign their programs to incorporate the new Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading (CRTL) Standards by October 1, 2025. Successful implementation of the standards is part of Goal 2 of ISBE's Strategic Plan. Surveys completed by institutions in 2021 and 2022 indicated an interest in working with a content expert for support on redesign and implementation efforts. As such, ISBE solicited bids for a vendor that has led similar projects with other education organizations. WestEd was selected through the procurement process and will be ISBE's partner for this work through December 31, 2024.

ISBE and educator preparation providers (EPPs) will be supported by a project team and 9 different coaches. Meet the [West Ed team](#) here!

How will WestEd support ISBE and EPPs?

West Ed, in conjunction with ISBE, will provide support to our Illinois EPPs in the following ways:

- **EPP Leadership Training: Leading Teams through the Redesign Process (Mar 21)** - This webinar is specific to education deans, program chairs, and individuals in other leadership positions who will guide program faculty and staff through the redesign process.
- **EPP Kick Off Meeting (Mar 30)** - This meeting is for EPP leadership, faculty, and other team members who will play a key role in the redesign effort. At this webinar, EPPs will learn about the support WestEd will provide throughout the redesign process and expectations from ISBE.
- **Individual Coaching Meetings** - Each EPP will be partnered with a coach from WestEd who is available to meet with the institution of higher education (IHE) to assist with reviewing draft plans, providing formative feedback, and/or assessing success after implementing the standards. The meetings will be tailored to each IHE's needs and will take place between spring 2023 and summer 2024. **Each IHE must attend at least two of the meetings** but ISBE encourages IHEs to take advantage of this opportunity for feedback and attend all three meetings.
- **Small Group Meetings** - These meetings will allow IHEs to collaborate and learn from their peers.
- **Resource Development** - WestEd will also develop resources to assist ISBE and EPPs in evaluating successful implementation of the standards in programs, assist ISBE with evaluating

and providing feedback to each EPP on their submitted plans for program redesign, and support ISBE in determining how candidate competence should be assessed.

What are the upcoming webinars and who should attend?

Each IHE should have formed a planning and implementation team to make any necessary changes to existing programs in order to better align with CRTL Standards. Anyone who is leading this work for their IHE should plan to attend the **Leader Training Webinar on March 21, 2023** from 10am-11:30am CT. This audience will be mostly deans or college level leadership. The second **Kickoff Meeting Webinar will take place on March 30, 2023** from 10am-11:30am and is for anyone involved in the realignment process, which might include additional faculty, diversity, equity and inclusion representatives, or other members of your CRTL planning and implementation team. The kickoff meeting will allow EPPs to learn about ISBE’s vision and expectations for alignment and learn about the supports and services WestEd will provide on the realignment journey. Each IHE can determine who should attend each webinar. Registration links will be sent to Annual Program Reporting contacts. Both webinars will be recorded and made available for later viewing.

Are the webinars and individual meetings required?

At least one representative of each IHE must attend the kickoff webinar, although we encourage your full redesign team to attend. Each EPP redesign team must attend at least two of the three individual meetings. Attendance is encouraged at the small-group meetings but not required. Recordings will be available upon request.

Who will be coordinating the individual meetings?

Our WestEd partners will be coordinating the individual coaching meetings. Each IHE will be assigned a WestEd coach who will provide individualized support and customized feedback to that institution over the course of three meetings. The meetings will take place from spring 2023 to fall 2024. To assist WestEd with this scheduling process, we are asking each IHE to complete this [short form](#) to identify your IHE’s CRTL planning and implementation team representative.

Will WestEd be using our institutional data for research purposes?

No.

We have already started our redesign process. Does bringing WestEd on board mean we need to start over in our process?

No. We anticipate most programs have already made progress in their CRTL program redesign efforts. WestEd is meant to provide support to programs in various stages of the process. The WestEd coaches will review any work you have done so far, discuss problems that may have come up and provide customized feedback based on best practices. The meetings will be tailored to meet your needs regardless of where you are in the redesign process.

Where can we find more details about the CRTL Standards and ISBE expectations for program realignment?

More information regarding the CRTL Standards and expectations for program realignment can be found on the [ISBE Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards webpage](#). This ISBE webpage includes links to the standards, the redesign transition guide, self-assessment tools, and the redesign matrix.

What is the deadline for submitting program redesigns to ISBE?

The formative feedback provided to EPPs by the WestEd team through three rounds of coaching sessions will enable EPPs to submit their final plan to ISBE by August 31, 2024. WestEd will work in partnership with ISBE to evaluate and provide summative feedback based on national best practices to each EPP on its submitted plan for aligning its programs to the CRTL Standards. Summative feedback will be prepared and delivered to EPPs by November 30, 2024. EPPs will be able to incorporate changes during spring 2025 and implement their redesigned programs by October 1, 2025.