

# Growing Leaders in Educational Innovation: Competency-Based Tools You Can Use



Illinois  
State Board of  
Education

## Ten Ways Teachers Can Create More Equitable Learning Opportunities for Students

### 1) **Personalized Learning Plans**

Incorporating student interests into learning increases engagement. Create personalized learning plans for each student. Monitor strengths and weaknesses and encourage students to reflect on their progress. Include learning experiences outside of school and use formative assessments frequently.

### 2) **Interdisciplinary Lessons**

Work with colleagues to create interdisciplinary units and lessons. It is essential for students to see standards applied across disciplines.

### 3) **Community Service Projects**

Solve local problems or assist with ongoing programs in the community. Establish relationships with community members and encourage civic engagement.

### 4) **Incorporate Social and Emotional Learning**

Use project-based learning to integrate social and emotional objectives. Solving problems through research and inquiry can teach students how to communicate and collaborate effectively.

### 5) **Emphasize the Importance of Growth**

Personalizing instruction allows for personalized authentic assessments. Measure individual student progress and praise any amounts of growth.

### 6) **Move to Student-Centered Instruction**

Embrace student-centered learning. Move from content-centered instruction to a student-centered environment. Shift roles from teacher to facilitator. Create stations throughout the classroom to organize students and make it easier to assist with individualized supports.

### 7) **Use Technology**

Technology can ease the transition from teacher to facilitator. Time management and organization are essential skills for creating more equitable learning opportunities for students. Use websites and apps to keep track of student learning inside and outside of the classroom. Technology can promote student learning and allow for mastery to occur at any time.

### 8) **Value Student Voices**

Allow student voices to help drive instruction. Listening and reflecting to students will drive personalized instruction that is meaningful to the learner. Encourage students to share their voices statewide on the student voices website.

[www.isbe.net/Pages/Student-Voices.aspx](http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Student-Voices.aspx)

### 9) **Be Flexible**

Seat time has been the driver of instruction in the past. Take advantage of the new rules and award credit based on mastery no matter when or where the mastery occurs.

### 10) **Be Creative**

Be proud of innovative approaches that are working for your students. Share best practices with colleagues and continue empowering students to strive for success.