Competency-Based High School Graduation Requirements Pilot Program Information & Request for Applications

May 21, 2019
Illinois is an advanced state for k-12 competency-based education
What is Competency-Based Education?

• Competencies are
  • Explicit, measurable, and transferable; and
  • Emphasize application and creation of knowledge, along with the development of important skills and dispositions.

• Educators and schools ensure that students receive timely, differentiated support based on their individual needs

• Assessment is meaningful and a positive learning experience.

• Students advance after mastery.

Adapted from Sturgis, Patrick, & Pittenger, 2011
What is a Competency?

A competency is more than just a standard.

A competency...

• Includes nonacademic areas;
• Requires integration of multiple standards;
• Includes both knowledge and skills; and
• Enables a student to apply and expand his or her learning over time.
In Illinois’ Competency-Based Learning System, Students Must........

- Demonstrate mastery of all required competencies to earn credit;
- Demonstrate mastery of adaptive competencies defined by the school district, in addition to academic competencies;
- Advance once they have demonstrated mastery; receive more time and personalized instruction, if needed, to demonstrate mastery;
- Have the ability to attain advanced postsecondary education and career-related competencies beyond those needed for graduation;
- Be assessed using multiple measures to determine mastery, usually with requirements to apply knowledge; and
- Be able to earn credit toward graduation requirements in ways other than traditional coursework—for example, learning opportunities outside the traditional classroom setting (such as supervised career development experiences).
Illinois Competency Pilot Overview

• In April 2017, ten school districts were announced as part of the first cohort.
• In March 2018, six school districts were announced as part of the second cohort.
• In September 2018, four additional school districts were announced as part of the second cohort.
• In December 2018, five additional learning communities were announced, including three collaboratives, as part of the third cohort.
• Pilot districts may request waiver or modification of state mandates or rules to support implementation. Limitations are outlined in statute.
Illinois Competency Pilot Districts Cohort 1

1. City of Chicago Public School District 299
2. East St. Louis School District 189, East St. Louis
3. Huntley Community School District 158, Algonquin
4. Kankakee School District 111, Kankakee
5. Peoria Public School District 150, Peoria
6. Proviso Township High School District 209, Forest Park
7. Rantoul Township High School District 193, Rantoul
8. Ridgewood High School District 234, Norridge
9. Round Lake Community Unit School District 116, Round Lake
10. Williamsfield Community Unit School District 210, Williamsfield
Illinois Competency Pilot Districts Cohort 2

1. Belvidere Community Unit School District 100, Belvidere
2. City of Chicago Public School District 299
3. Community School District 300, Algonquin
4. Maine Township High School District 207, Park Ridge
5. Paris Cooperative High School, Paris
6. Urbana School District 116, Urbana
Illinois Competency Pilot Districts Cohort 2

1. Illinois Valley Central School District 321, Chillicothe
2. Mattoon Community Unit School District 2, Mattoon
3. Quincy School District 172, Quincy
4. Warren Community Unit School District 205, Warren

Whole Child • Whole School • Whole Community
Illinois Competency Pilot Districts Cohort 3

Abe Lincoln Collaborative
- Athens Community Unit School District 213
- Auburn Community Unit School District 10
- Ball-Chatham Community School District 5
- Edinburg Community School District 4
- Greenview Community School District 200
- New Berlin Community Unit School District 16
- Pawnee Community Unit School District 11
- Pleasant Plains Community Unit School District 8
- PORTA Community Unit School District 202
- Riverton Community Unit School District 14
- Sangamon Valley Community Unit School District 9
- Springfield District 186
- Tri-City Community Unit School District 1
- Williamsville Community Unit School District 15

Champaign Collaborative
- Champaign Community Unit School District 4
- Heritage Community School District 8
- Mahomet-Seymour Community Unit District 3
- Paxton-Buckley-Loda Community Unit School District 10
- St. Joseph-Ogden Community High School District 305
- Tolono Community Unit School District 7

Current Pilot Districts
- Urbana School District 116
- Rantoul Township High School District 193

Work Ready Collaborative
- LeRoy Community Unit School District 2
- Olympia Community Unit School District 16
- Pontiac Township School District 90
- Tri-Valley Community Unit School District 3

Whole Child • Whole School • Whole Community
Competency-Based High School Graduation Requirements Pilot Program Application
Proposal Format

Each proposal must be submitted in the format outlined below.

1) Cover Packet
   • *Attachment 1* - Complete the requested information. Include all signatures.

2) Proposal Narrative
   • Follow the instructions under Proposal Narrative Requirements.

3) Evaluation and Sustainability
   • Describe how the plan will be monitored and evaluated and how results will be reported.
Eligible Applicants

- According to Section 20 of the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act 110 ILCS 48/:  
  - Public school districts may participate in the pilot program for some or all of its schools.  
  - School districts may collaboratively apply to participate in the pilot program.
District Application
District Application

- As part of the Request for Application (RFA) process, districts select the year and course graduation requirement it wishes to replace with a competency-based learning system.
- If a district has a student population of fewer than 500,000, all of its schools may participate in the pilot program. Districts with more than 500,000 students may only select six schools to participate in the project.
- Districts have the flexibility to include in the proposed timeline a planning year or immediate implementation.
Attachment

The district must complete pages 1-9 of the attachment.
Collaborative Application
Collaborative Application

• School districts may collaboratively apply to participate in the pilot program.

• In the application of a collaborative of districts, each district participating in the collaborative shall comply with the requirements outlined in the application.

• The districts participating in the collaborative may establish and maintain a standing planning and implementation committee individually or collaboratively.
Attachment Page 1

Each district must submit a copy of page 1 for each district involved in the collaborative.

Example: If there are four school districts in the collaborative, the collaborative district application will have four copies of page 1 in their submitted application.
Only one copy per collaborative is necessary for Attachment pages 2-8
The district name may say Collaborative. The RCDTC codes will be listed for each individual district involved in the collaborative application.

**Example:** See highlighted areas

If a Collaborative creates only one Planning & Implementation Committee then only one list is required in the application, but if more than one is created then all should be included.
Attachment Page 9

Each district must submit a copy of page 9 for each district involved in the collaborative.

Example: If there are four school districts in the collaborative, the collaborative district application will have four copies of page 9 in their submitted application. Only one signature of the partnering institutions of higher education is required for the collaborative application.
Submission Process for All Proposals

Proposals may be submitted electronically through the ISBE Attachment Manager, mailed, or hand delivered no later than June 21, 2019. Directions for each submission method are found below.

• Electronic Submission:
  • Completed proposals submitted electronically should be scanned into PDF with all supporting documents and required signatures. The ISBE Attachment Manager is found at https://sec1.isbe.net/attachmgr/default.aspx. Choose Hyde, Amy Lynn from the drop down menu in Receiver Information. Submit the application using the button at the bottom of the page.

• Mailed Proposals:
  • Mail the original and an electronic copy of the proposal on a USB flash drive to Amy Hyde, Illinois State Board of Education, 100 North First Street (S284), Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001.
Application Details

• No state funding is associated with this application.
• The initial project period will begin no earlier than June 30, 2019.
• The application deadline is 5:00 p.m. on June 21, 2019.
• Late proposals will not be accepted.
Learner Competencies Guidance Document

- Developing Learner Competencies for Use in a Competency-Based Education System (www.isbe.net/competency)
- Offers guidance to pilot sites in developing academic and adaptive competencies—not requirements.
- Written by Illinois Learner Competency Working Group Members
  - Illinois State Board of Education, Midwest Comprehensive Center, Center for Innovations in Learning, Advance Illinois
  - Pilot Sites: Huntley, Ridgewood, and Round Lake
  - Expert Peer Reviewers
- Document will be modified over time to reflect Pilot site experiences and input.
Additional Information

For more information on this RFA or FAQs please visit [www.isbe.net/competency](http://www.isbe.net/competency).

For additional questions, please contact [competencypilot@isbe.net](mailto:competencypilot@isbe.net).