

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Educator Preparation Alignment to the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan

Q1: What is the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan?

A: The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has adopted the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan, a roadmap to enhance and unify core literacy instruction efforts statewide. The plan 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. More information about the plan and why it was developed can be found on the [ISBE Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan webpage](#).

Q2: Why was the initiative launched to evaluate Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) for alignment with the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan?

A: The [ISBE Strategic Plan](#) outlined the requirement of ISBE to evaluate educator preparation programs for alignment to the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy plan in Goal 3.1.2.

Q3: How can EPPs prepare for the evaluation?

A: To assist EPPs, ISBE created a steering team of representatives from higher education to create a self-assessment tool to help guide literacy work in higher education. The self-assessment tool is meant to provide a starting point for alignment and should identify areas of strength and opportunities for improvement. Additionally, the self-assessment tool will serve as the evaluation instrument during ISBE's review of EPP alignment with the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan. For more information, you may view the informative document: Background and General Information: Self-Assessment Tool and the Self-Assessment Tool on the ISBE website.

The Literacy in EPP Self-Assessment Tool lists examples of evidence that could be presented to show alignment to each section of the tool.

Q4: Does the evidence need to be turned in to ISBE?

A: The evidence does not need to be turned in as part of the self-assessment process. You should collect and file evidence in preparation for the upcoming evaluation.

Q5: Can other examples of evidence be used?

A: Yes, if other evidence is found to show alignment to a section of the tool, you may mark the other box and file for access.

Q6: What should EPPs do to address “Development Focus Points”?

A: EPPs are encouraged to create a plan that responds to the identified focus points and shows how their programs align with the Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan. ISBE will provide a webinar and document to assist EPPs with the next steps in April 2026. EPPs will not be required to turn in any action plans outlining next steps, but an action plan could be used to show evidence of steps toward alignment on the upcoming evaluation.

Q7: What programs should be evaluated using the Self-Assessment Tool?

A: All approved educator preparation programs that could lead to initial licensure in the teaching field should complete a self-assessment to prepare for the upcoming evaluation to be completed by June 30, 2027. Additionally, Reading Specialist programs should also complete the self-assessment. Please see the listing of approved educator preparation programs on the following page:

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| <p>Early Childhood (Birth-Grade 2)</p> <p>Early Childhood Special Education (Birth-Grade 2)</p> <p>Elementary Education (Grades 1-6)</p> <p>Elementary Math Specialist (Grades 1-6)</p> <p>Middle Grades (5-8)</p> <p>General Science</p> <p>Language Arts</p> <p>Mathematics</p> <p>Social Science</p> <p>Senior High (9-12)</p> <p>English Language Arts</p> <p>Mathematics</p> <p>Science - Biology</p> <p>Science - Chemistry</p> <p>Science - Earth & Space Science</p> <p>Science - Environmental Science</p> <p>Science - Physics</p> <p>Social Science - Economics</p> <p>Social Science - Geography</p> <p>Social Science - History</p> <p>Social Science - Political Science</p> <p>Social Science - Psychology</p> <p>Social Science - Sociology and Anthropology</p> | <p>Senior High (5-12)</p> <p>Agricultural Education</p> <p>Business, Marketing, and Computer Ed</p> <p>Computer Science</p> <p>Family and Consumer Science</p> <p>Special Education (K-Age 22)</p> <p>Learning Behavior Specialist I (LBSI)</p> <p>Special Education (PK-Age 22)</p> <p>Teacher of Students Who Are Deaf/Hard of Hearing</p> <p>Teacher of Students Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired</p> <p>Special (PK-12)</p> <p>Dance</p> <p>Drama/Theatre Arts</p> <p>World Language (multiple languages)</p> <p>Health Education</p> <p>Library Information Specialist</p> <p>Music</p> <p>Physical Education</p> <p>Reading Specialist</p> <p>Technology Specialist</p> <p>Visual Arts</p> |
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Q8: What support will ISBE provide during the self-assessment period?

A: ISBE intends to host open office hours and provide coaching sessions for institutions. The format of coaching is still in the planning stages, and additional information will be shared when available.

Q9: When will ISBE provide additional information on the evaluation?

A: ISBE plans to host a webinar and provide a comprehensive overview for the evaluation in September 2026.