



# **THE ILLINOIS STRATEGIC PLAN FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**

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2024 Revision

# THE TEAM

Illinois Team Ag Ed is a collaborative effort among secondary and postsecondary educators working together with student leadership and stakeholders to support one unified mission.



ILLINOIS  
FFA ASSOCIATION



Illinois  
State Board  
of Education



ILLINOIS  
FOUNDATION FFA



WESTERN  
ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY



SIU  
CARBONDALE



# INTRODUCTION



**This is the sixth revision to The Plan since its inception in 1987. The first five versions of The Plan have served as a blueprint for Agricultural Education in Illinois. Our intention with this version is to highlight our strategic plan through 2030 for Agricultural Education in Illinois.**

**The Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education (ILCAE) will continue to review The Plan as needed and provide counsel and services directly to the State Superintendent of Schools, Illinois State Board of Education, and the Governor of Illinois via the Illinois Committee on Agricultural Education (ICAE), as well as Legislators of the Illinois General Assembly and members of Team Ag Ed.**

**As we search for ways to enhance agricultural education continually, we know three things: the primary credit and responsibility for student learning is with students and families; the primary impact Illinois has on student learning is through teachers; and government and industry must work together to ensure students and teachers are prepared to support Illinois' largest industry – agriculture.**

## **Revisions**

**(6th) June 2024, (5th) June 2016, (4th) May 2007,  
(3rd) September 2005, (2nd) March 2000, (1st) July 1992**

**Original  
February 1987**

# STRATEGIC PLAN

## MISSION:

Illinois Agricultural Education provides leadership, guidance, and advocacy to increase consumer awareness and to prepare students for career opportunities in the global economies of the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources systems.

## VISION:

Support the Illinois agricultural, food, and natural resource industry by providing equitable access to high-quality educational opportunities to meet the evolving needs of learners, consumers and the workforce.

# Illinois Agricultural Education

School-based  
Agricultural Education  
Students

School-based  
Agricultural Education  
Teachers

Post-Secondary  
Education in Agriculture

Strategic Agricultural  
Workforce  
Development

Agricultural Literacy,  
Awareness, &  
Advocacy

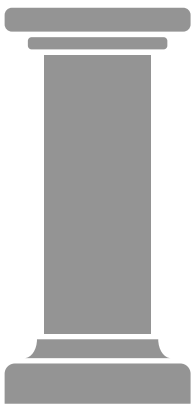
# THE PILLARS

## School-based Agricultural Education Students



1. Increase enrollment in agricultural education programs 15% by 2030.
2. Obtain statewide Ag Education enrollment within +5% of parity in regards to gender and ethnicity between the 2023-2024 school year and the 2029-2030 school year.
3. Achieve a 15% increase in FFA engagement and participation by the end of 2030 through premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.

## School-based Agricultural Education Teachers

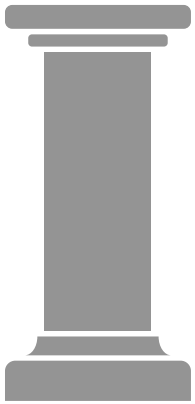


1. Engage 90% of full-time Illinois Agricultural Education Instructors as active members of the Illinois Association of Vocational Agricultural Teachers (IAVAT) and related professional organizations.
2. Retain 70% of early career (0-5 years) school-based ag education teachers for a minimum of five consecutive years of employment within the state of Illinois.
3. Increase multi-teacher programs by 5% annually within school-based agriculture education programs.
4. Actively involve 40% of agriculture teachers in at least one agriculture-related professional development program sponsored by the Illinois Association of Vocational Agricultural Teachers (IAVAT).
5. Encourage 60% of school-based agricultural education instructors to pursue or possess an advanced degree, certification, and/or industry credentials.



# THE PILLARS

## Postsecondary Education in Agriculture



1. Achieve a student degree completion rate and yearly retention rate of 80% or more across all agriculture disciplines.
2. Increase the number of Illinois post-secondary agricultural education institutions that participate in state or national-level agricultural education events by 5% annually.
3. Increase the number of students from underrepresented populations pursuing a degree in agriculture by 3% annually.
4. Produce 40 agriculture education graduates with a Professional Educator License (PEL) annually.
5. Work collaboratively among all Illinois institutions to increase the number of students staying in-state for their post-secondary education.

## Strategic Agricultural Workforce Development

1. See an increase of 10% in Foundational SAEs and 5% in Immersion SAEs in 7th-12th grade focusing on career skills, safety, ag awareness, ag literacy, and finance by 2030.
2. Promote workplace experience and career exposure at the secondary level and expand on current internships by 5% at the post-secondary level.
3. Engage and/or collaborate with five private/commodity groups in professional development opportunities for students, teachers, and other industry professionals at the state level annually.
4. Connect with 50 guidance counselors and/or administrators annually to promote AFNR pathways and careers.



# THE PILLARS

## Agricultural Literacy, Awareness, & Advocacy

1. Maintain an Illinois Ag In The Classroom (IAITC)/Ag Literacy local contact in 100% of Illinois counties.
2. Increase the number of teachers receiving professional development workshop training from IAITC and county programs to 3,300 in Year 1 and an additional 3% each year after.
3. Actively engage 600,000 students in IAITC programs annually with emphasis placed on collecting data from IAITC County Coordinators receiving grant funding from the IAITC County Coalition Grants.
4. Engage 100,000 community members through various community events promoted by IAITC annually.
5. Promote the development and release a minimum of 10 new resources per year for use by IAITC Coordinators, teachers, and volunteers. These lessons will all be housed on the IAITC website.

