Supporting All Schools: IL-EMPOWER

All schools will have access to Illinois’ new statewide system of support, IL-EMPOWER.

Empowers schools to:
- Conduct equity audit and needs assessment to determine opportunities for growth in specific areas: Governance and Management, Curriculum and Instruction, and Climate and Culture
- Select partners from pre-approved and cost-controlled network
- Create four-year improvement plan with quarterly reporting to ISBE
- Build capacity, leadership, and resources to improve student outcomes
- Share expertise with other schools as members of the network of partners; available to schools with Tier 1: Exemplary and Tier 2: Commendable designations

Empowers ISBE to:
- Hold both schools and vendors accountable for improvement

Opportunities for Educators

- Develop competitive grant programs:
  - 30-60-90-day teacher-led research projects to promote leadership
  - Innovative fieldwork partnership between districts and higher education institutions with approved teacher education programs
- Continue to support the online, on-demand professional learning community Ed Leaders Network to connect leaders across districts
- Create resources for supporting the whole child and transitioning students successfully throughout the continuum of early childhood through college and career
- Develop resources and professional learning opportunities for educators on Universal Design for Learning, differentiated instruction, balanced assessment, and data and assessment literacy

Accountability: Measuring School Quality

Academic Indicators (75%)
- PARCC and DLM-AA (2018-19: ELA 10%; Math 10%) (thereafter: ELA 7.5%; Math 7.5%)
- Growth: Linear Regression (50%)*
- English Learner Proficiency (ACCESS) (5%)
- Science (2018-19: 0%) (thereafter: 5%)

School Quality / Student Success Indicators (25%)
- Chronic Absenteeism (10%)
- Climate Survey (5%)
- Fine Arts (2018-19: 0%) (>=0% by 2021-22)
- P-2 Indicator (5%)
- Elementary/Middle Indicator (5%)

High School
- SAT (2018-19: ELA 10%; Math 10%) (thereafter: ELA 7.5%; Math 7.5%)
- Graduation (4-, 5-, and 6-year Rates) (50%)
- English Learner Proficiency (ACCESS) (5%)
- Science (2018-19: 0%) (thereafter: 5%)

Summative Designations

Tier 1: Exemplary School: A school that has no underperforming subgroups, a graduation rate of greater than 67 percent, and whose performance is in the top 10 percent of schools statewide. A school that receives a Tier 1: Exemplary School designation may apply to serve in the IL-EMPOWER network of partners.

Tier 2: Commendable School: A school that has no subgroups performing at or below the level of the “all students” group in the lowest 5 percent of Title I schools, a graduation rate greater than 67 percent, and whose performance is not in the top 10 percent of schools statewide. A school that receives a Tier 2: Commendable School designation may apply to serve in the IL-EMPOWER network of partners.

Tier 3: Underperforming School: A school in which one or more subgroups is performing at or below the level of the “all students” group in the lowest 5 percent of Title I schools. A school that receives a Tier 3: Underperforming School designation will receive targeted support.

Tier 4: Lowest Performing School: A school that is in the lowest-performing 5 percent of Title I schools in Illinois and those high schools that have a graduation rate of 67 percent or less. A school that receives a Tier 4: Lowest Performing School designation will receive comprehensive support through IL-EMPOWER.
Illinois recognizes an emphasis on student growth as a primary driver to close equity gaps. As a result, student growth will represent 50 percent of the accountability framework for Illinois. In addition, IBSE will provide each school with a growth designation on the Illinois Report Card beginning in the 2019-2020 school year. This designation will provide parents, caregivers, and community members additional information on the interrelationship between growth and attainment, as well as highlight those schools that have made substantial gains in growth. There will be an annual comparison of like schools’ and all schools’ growth to proficiency. In both cases, the assigned grade for growth will use an A-F scale. The different levels for the growth designation will be assigned based on each school’s performance relative to all comparable schools. The Technical Advisory Council will assign designations using either quintiles or normal curve distribution.