



Braided Learning: AFNR Meeting Graduation Requirements

Intended Audience: Illinois Agricultural Educators

Date of Presentation: TBD

Trainer: Mr. Andrew Klein, Principal Consultant for Agricultural Education

The following learning plan has been developed using the principles of backwards design as described in *Understanding by Design (UbD)*. For an expanded look at UbD, please refer to the AFNR Teacher Guide provided by the Department of CTE & Innovation at the State Board of Education.

Learning Preview

Want your AFNR course to meet a local graduation requirement like science, math, social science, or consumer education? Join ISBE in exploring the established process and gain access to valuable tools that will help teachers, administrators, and school board members to work together to achieve this goal.

Big Ideas

Big ideas represent major themes of the learning plan. These ideas may be repeated or revisited throughout the learning experience to enhance and deepen understanding. See table below.

Big Idea 1	<i>Illinois students must complete certain requirements for graduation. Because AFNR is not an explicit graduation requirement in itself, this can lead to scheduling conflicts and students not enrolling in Agricultural Education.</i>
Big Idea 2	<i>Local school boards are empowered by law to adopt a policy that would allow a Career and Technical Education course to be substituted for a graduation requirement such as math, ELA, social sciences, science, etc.</i>
Big Idea 3	<i>Agricultural Educators can follow an established process and utilize Illinois Learning Standards to demonstrate validity and offer an AFNR course as a substitute for a specific graduation requirement such as math or science.</i>

Learning Objectives


	<i>Audience will know...</i>	<i>Audience will be able to...</i>
Big Idea 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Illinois students, by law, are required to take specific courses to graduate from high school. 2. Requirements are further defined by each local school board in their respective policy manual. 	<p><i>Cite Illinois statute referencing graduation requirements in order to identify specific courses required to achieve a high school diploma in Illinois.</i></p> <p><i>Find and navigate your local School Board policy manual in order to identify further guidance on graduation requirements.</i></p>
Big Idea 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. School boards are also empowered to offer Career and Technical Education courses, such as Agricultural Education, as substitutes for graduation requirements if certain requirements are met. 	<p><i>Develop a plan to work with local administrators and school board members to adopt AFNR course(s) as fulfilling specific requirements for graduation. (2.1)</i></p>
Big Idea 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. AFNR courses must achieve at least 50% of the Illinois Learning Standards designated for the required course intended to be substituted. 5. Parents must request, in writing, that their child be allowed to take a specific course as a substitute for the traditional graduation requirement. 	<p><i>Review Illinois Learning Standards to create a side-by-side comparison of a chosen AFNR course and a related local graduation requirement. (3.1)</i></p>

Essential Questions

1. What are my local school board policies for graduation requirements?
2. When will it be helpful to reference specific Illinois law in advocating for AFNR courses to meet graduation requirements? How will you use the provided references?
3. Who are the key individuals to include in planning an AFNR course to meet specific graduation requirements? What role will those individuals play?
4. Why is it important to document standards alignment?
5. What role do standards play in course planning?

Learning Tasks

- ✓ Assign workshop participants into workable small groups of 3-5 teachers.
- ✓ Ensure workshop participants have all necessary materials from the *Needs Checklist*

- ✓ **Module 1. Graduation Requirements**
 - Play [Video Presentation Graduation Requirements](#)
 - Review **Cited Sources for High School Graduation Requirements** 
 - Search and find your local *School Board Policy Manual* Online.
 - Discuss Essential Questions 1 and 2 with your small group.

- ✓ **Module 2. The Process**
 - Play [Video Presentation The Process](#)
 - Complete **Activity 2.1 Make a Plan**
 - Discuss Essential Question 3 in your small group.

- ✓ **Module 3. Course Planning**
 - Play [Video Presentation Course Planning](#)
 - Complete **Activity 3.1 Standard Alignment**
 - While working on Activity 3.1, discuss Essential Questions 4 and 5 in small groups.

- ✓ Play [Graduation Requirements Workshop Conclusion Video](#)

Materials and Systems

Presentations

[Video 1. Graduation Requirements \(Click to View\)](#)

[Video 2. The Process \(Click to View\)](#)

[Video 3. Course Planning \(Click to View\)](#)

[Video 4. Conclusion Video \(Click to View\)](#)

Audience Activities

Activity 2.1 Make a Plan  

Activity 3.1 Standard Alignment  

Needs Checklist

Cited Sources for High School Graduation Requirements 