Q. Do we continue to align all teacher programs to IPTS standards?

Pursuant to 23 Illinois Administrative Code, Part 27, Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) with secondary education and/or special teaching program(s) approved by the Illinois State Board of Education shall align each approved program to national standards. The transition from state standards to national standards applies to those secondary education and/or special teaching program(s) that have already been initially approved by ISBE. Furthermore, this transition is not to serve as a re-approval or reauthorization of an already approved secondary education and/or special teaching program, but rather aligns the initial approved course of study that was previously aligned to state standards to the current national standards as identified in 23 Illinois Administrative Code, Part 27.

23 Illinois Administrative Code, Part 25, Section 25.120(a)(1)(A-E) of rule articulates the requirements for initial program approval. 23 Illinois Administrative Code, Part 25, Section 25.120(a)(1)(A-E) states:

1) Evidence that the proposed program meets the applicable professional education and content-area standards established by the State Board of Education; the standards shall include:

A) the national content standards accepted by the State Board of Education and listed on the State Board’s website at www.isbe.net;

B) the applicable content standards set forth at 23 Ill. Adm. Code 20, 21, 23, 26, 27, 28 or 29;

C) the standards set forth at 23 Ill. Adm. Code 24 (Standards for All Illinois Teachers) or the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (2015), adopted by the National Policy Board for Educational Administration and posted at http://www.ccsso.org/Documents/2015/ProfessionalStandardsforEducationalLeaders2015forNPBEAFINAL.pdf (no later additions to or editions of these standards are incorporated), as applicable;
D) the State Board of Education’s Social and Emotional Learning Standards set forth at 23 Ill. Adm. Code 555.Appendix A to the extent that educators understand the standards and how they apply to students in kindergarten through grade 12; and

E) the CAEP 2013 Accreditation Standards posted at http://caepnet.org/ (no later amendments to or editions of these standards are incorporated).

It is important to note that the transition to national standards process does not take the place of “initial” program approval. Approved programs already aligned to IPTS, SEL and CAEP (depending on approval date) during the initial program approval process. ISBE recognizes this and does not require evidence of meeting IPTS, SEL, and CAEP standards be submitted with the National Standards Transition Proposals. Evidence of alignment to IPTS, SEL and CAEP are only required when institutions submit a new program proposal or program change notification (as applicable).

Q: What is required for institutions that already have a national standards crosswalk/matrix for individual programs but are not SPA recognized?

Per feedback from the field we have made a few minor updates to the National Standards Transition Guide and Proposals:

1. Added clarification for transition process if National Standard Associations are currently or have identified a projected date to update/revise standard sets (see National Standards Transition Guide page 5)

2. Due to submission timeline and volume of expected proposals we developed a specific email inbox (preparation@isbe.net) for EPPs to use to send national standard transition proposals. Proposals have been updated to include this email address and may be found here.

As a reminder all documentation can be found and downloaded from the ISBE website on the Colleges and Universities web page under "National Preparation Program Standards”.

Prep Team Support:

If institutions have a national standards crosswalk/matrix for individual programs that mirrors the matrix found on the national standards transition proposal designed by ISBE, it may be sent directly to your assigned preparation liaison for review. If the crosswalk/matrix is deemed appropriate, your preparation liaison will work directly with the institution to identify the best way to incorporate the crosswalk/matrix into the National Standards Transition Proposal for submission to ISBE. In cases such as this, the preparation liaison will NOT be reviewing for standard alignment only supporting institutions in formatting proposals prior to submission.

Updated 5/9/2019
Q: Are the 32 credit hours in the discipline still required? Yes

Q: After October 2020, will programs be required to submit to their SPA for recognition in order to meet ISBE expectations? No

Q: What if the program needs changed in order to meet national standards requirements? What is the process for program changes for these K12 and Secondary Education programs?

The answer to this question can be found in the National Standards Transition Guide online. In addition, the answer is copied below.

Programs with courses that must be modified and/or replaced because they don’t align to national standards may be required to submit a program change and/or new program proposal in addition to the national standards transition proposal. In these cases, ISBE will request additional documentation, and EPPs shall work directly with their assigned preparation liaison. It is important to note that National Standards Transition Proposal(s) and Program Change Notification must be added to the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board (SEPLB) consent agenda to be considered for approval.

Q: Our graduate programs require students to pass the content exams prior to admission. Are our programs still required to align to national content standards?

Yes. All programs are required to provide proof of alignment, regardless of test requirements.

Q: If all of the national standards are covered in include in 22 credit hours, is that sufficient? Or must we submit the entire course of study?

It is required to submit the entire course of study for each content area. National standard alignment must be provided course by course, with all standards covered.

Q: Does the national standards transition impact school support personnel or administrative programs? No.

Q: Do middle grade language arts and math programs need to submit national standards transition alignment? No. Middle grade language arts and math programs align to Part 21 state standards and AMLE standards. These programs were already aligned to Part 21 and AMLE upon initial approval in Illinois. Only middle grade science and social science programs need to provide national standards transition alignment per Part 27 changes to those content areas.