Principal and Superintendent Program National Standards Transition Guide

December 2022

Table of Contents

Principal Preparation Programs

Pursuant to 23 Illinois Administrative Code, Part 30, Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) with principal preparation programs approved by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) shall align to the National Educational Leadership Preparation (NELP) Program Recognition Standards (Building Level). The information below provides guidance on the process EPPs shall use to transition programs to NELP standards.

A) Transition Deadline

October 1, 2025: No candidate shall be admitted into a principal preparation program unless the program aligns to the [National Educational Leadership Preparation Program Recognition Standards-Building Level.](#)

B) Transition to National Standards Process

1. Review the [NELP-Building Level standards](#) in detail, verifying all requirements of these standards encompass the program's mission.
2. Complete all sections of the National Standards Transition Matrix to demonstrate how the current program aligns to the appropriate standard and component level.
3. Submit completed matrix to preparation@isbe.net.
4. Agency staff review the matrix to verify all standards are appropriately aligned to the new standards.
5. Agency sends approval letter to EPP upon conclusion of agency review and approval.

Deadline: Transition Matrices should be submitted to ISBE by July 29, 2025, to meet the October 1, 2025, approval deadline.

C) Program Changes Due to National Standards Transition

EPPs must indicate, via the Transition Matrix, if any courses are being removed from their approved program. This matrix shall be used in lieu of a program change form.

Superintendent Preparation Programs

Pursuant to 23 Illinois Administrative Code, Part 33, EPPs with superintendent preparation programs approved by the Illinois State Board of Education shall align NELP Program Recognition Standards (District Level). The information below provides guidance on the process EPPs shall use to transition programs to NELP standards.

A) Transition Deadline

October 1, 2025: No candidate shall be admitted into a superintendent preparation program unless the program aligns to the National Educational Leadership Preparation (NELP) Program Recognition Standards-District Level.

B) Transition to National Standards Process

1. Review the NELP-District Level standards in detail, verifying all requirements of these standards encompass the program's mission.
2. Complete all sections of the Transition Matrix to demonstrate how the current program aligns to the appropriate standard and component level.
3. Submit completed matrix to preparation@isbe.net.
4. Agency staff review the matrix to verify all standards appropriately aligned to the new standards.
5. Agency sends approval letter to EPP upon conclusion of agency review and approval.

Deadline: Transition Matrices should be submitted to ISBE by July 29, 2025, to meet the October 1, 2025, approval deadline.

C) Program Changes Due to National Standards Transition
EPPs must indicate, via the Transition Matrix, if any courses are being removed from their approved program. This matrix shall be used in lieu of a program change form.

Appendix A: List of Standards/Components

Section 1: Principal Standards/Components (Page 10)

Standard 1: Mission, Vision, and Improvement

Component 1.1 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to collaboratively design, communicate, and evaluate a district mission and vision that reflects a core set of values and priorities that include data use, technology, values, equity, diversity, digital citizenship, and community

Component 1.2 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to lead improvement processes that include data use, design, implementation, and evaluation.

Standard 2: Ethics and Professional Norms

Component 2.1 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to reflect on, communicate about, cultivate, and model professional dispositions and norms e.g., fairness, integrity, transparency, trust, digital citizenship, collaboration, perseverance, reflection, lifelong learning) that support the educational success and well-being of each student and adult.

Component 2.2 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, communicate about, and advocate for ethical and legal decisions.

Component 2.3 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to model ethical behavior in their personal conduct and relationships and to cultivate ethical behavior in others.

Standard 3: Equity, Inclusiveness, and Cultural Responsiveness

Component 3.1 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to use data to evaluate, design, cultivate, and advocate for a supportive and inclusive school culture.

Component 3.2 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, cultivate, and advocate for equitable access to educational resources, technologies, and opportunities that support the educational success and well-being of each student.

Component 3.3 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, cultivate, and advocate for equitable, inclusive, and culturally responsive instruction and behavior support practices among teachers and staff.

Standard 4: Learning and Instruction

Component 4.1 Program completers understand and can demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement high-quality, technology-rich curricula programs and other supports for academic and non-academic student programs.

Component 4.2 Program completers understand and can demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement high-quality and equitable academic and non-academic instructional practices, resources, technologies, and services that support equity, digital literacy, and the school's academic and non-academic systems.

Component 4.3 Program completers understand and can demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement formal and informal culturally responsive and accessible assessments that support data-informed instructional improvement and student learning and well-being.

Component 4.4 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to collaboratively evaluate, develop, and implement the school's curriculum, instruction, technology, data systems, and assessment practices in a coherent, equitable, and systematic manner.

Standard 5: Community and External Leadership

Component 5.1 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to collaboratively engage diverse families in strengthening student learning in and out of school.

Component 5.2 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to collaboratively engage and cultivate relationships with diverse community members, partners, and other constituencies for the benefit of school improvement and student development.

Component 5.3 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to communicate through oral, written, and digital means within the larger organizational, community, and political contexts when advocating for the needs of their school and community.

Standard 6: Operations and Management

Component 6.1 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement management, communication, technology, school-level governance, and operation systems that support each student's learning needs and promote the mission and vision of the school.

Component 6.2 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and advocate for a data-informed and equitable resourcing plan that supports school improvement and student development.

Component 6.3 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to reflectively evaluate, communicate about, and implement laws, rights, policies, and regulations to promote student and adult success and well-being.

Standard 7: Building Professional Capacity

Component 7.1 Program completers understand and have the capacity to collaboratively develop the school's professional capacity through engagement in recruiting, selecting, and hiring staff.

Component 7.2 Program completers understand and have the capacity to develop and engage staff in a collaborative professional culture designed to promote school improvement, teacher retention, and the success and well-being of each student and adult in the school.

Component 7.3 Program completers understand and have the capacity to personally engage in, as well as collaboratively engage school staff in, professional learning designed to promote reflection, cultural responsiveness, distributed leadership, digital literacy, school improvement, and student success.

Component 7.4 Program completers understand and have the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement systems of supervision, support, and evaluation designed to promote school improvement and student success.

Standard 8: Internship

Component 8.1 Candidates are provided a variety of coherent, authentic field and/or clinical internship experiences within

multiple school environments that afford opportunities to interact with stakeholders, synthesize and apply the content knowledge, and develop and refine the professional skills articulated in each of the components included in NELP building-level program standards 1–7.

Component 8.2 Candidates are provided a minimum of six months of concentrated (10–15 hours per week) internship or clinical experiences that include authentic leadership activities within a school setting.

Component 8.3 Candidates are provided a mentor who has demonstrated effectiveness as an educational leader within a building setting; is present for a significant portion of the internship; is selected collaboratively by the intern, a representative of the school and/or district, and program faculty; and has received training from the supervising institution

Standard 1: Mission, Vision, and Improvement

Component 1.1 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to collaboratively design, communicate, and evaluate a district mission and vision that reflects a core set of values and priorities that include data use, technology, values, equity, diversity, digital citizenship, and community.

Component 1.2 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to lead district strategic planning and continuous improvement processes that engage diverse stakeholders in data collection, diagnosis, design, implementation, and evaluation.

Standard 2: Ethics and Professional Norms

Component 2.1 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to reflect on, communicate about, and cultivate professional dispositions and norms (e.g., equity, fairness, integrity, transparency, trust, collaboration, perseverance, reflection, lifelong learning, digital citizenship) and professional district and school cultures.

Component 2.2 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to evaluate and advocate for ethical and legal decisions.

Component 2.3 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to model ethical behavior in their personal conduct and relationships and to cultivate ethical behavior in others.

Standard 3: Equity, Inclusiveness, and Cultural Responsiveness

Component 3.1 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, cultivate, and advocate for a supportive and inclusive district culture.

Component 3.2 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, cultivate, and advocate for equitable access to safe and nurturing schools and the opportunities and resources, including instructional materials, technologies, classrooms, teachers, interventions, and adult relationships, necessary to support the success and well-being of each student.

Component 3.3 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, advocate, and cultivate equitable, inclusive, and culturally responsive instructional and behavior support practices among teachers and staff.

Standard 4: Learning and Instruction

Component 4.1 Program completers understand and can demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, design, and implement high-quality curricula, the use of technology, and other services and supports for academic and non-academic student programs.

Component 4.2 Program completers understand and can demonstrate the capacity to collaboratively evaluate, design, and cultivate coherent systems of support, coaching, and professional development for educators, educational professionals, and school and district leaders, including themselves, that promote reflection, digital literacy, distributed leadership, data literacy, equity, improvement, and student success.

Component 4.3 Program completers understand and can demonstrate the capacity to design, implement, and evaluate a developmentally appropriate, accessible, and culturally responsive system of assessments and data collection, management, and analysis that support instructional improvement, equity, student learning and well-being, and instructional leadership.

Component 4.4 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to design, implement, and evaluate district-wide use of coherent systems of curriculum, instruction, assessment, student services, technology, and instructional resources that support the needs of each student in the district.

Standard 5: Community and External Leadership

Component 5.1 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to represent and support district schools in engaging diverse families in strengthening student learning in and out of school.

Component 5.2 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to understand, engage, and effectively collaborate and communicate with, through oral, written, and digital means, diverse families, community members, partners, and other constituencies to benefit learners, schools, and the district as a whole.

Component 5.3 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to communicate through oral, written, and digital means within the larger organizational, community, and political contexts and cultivate relationships with members of the business, civic, and policy community in support of their advocacy for district, school, student, and community needs.

Standard 6: Operations and Management

Component 6.1 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to develop, communicate, implement, and evaluate data-informed and equitable management, communication, technology, governance, and operation systems at the district level to support schools in realizing the district's mission and vision.

Component 6.2 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to develop, communicate, implement, and evaluate a data-based district resourcing plan and support schools in developing their school-level resourcing plans.

Component 6.3 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to develop, implement, and evaluate coordinated, data-informed systems for hiring, retaining, supervising, and developing school and district staff in order to support the district's collective instructional and leadership capacity.

Standard 7: Policy, Governance, and Advocacy

Component 7.1 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to represent the district, advocate for district needs, and cultivate a respectful and responsive relationship with the district's board of education focused on achieving the district's shared mission and vision.

Component 7.2 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to design, implement, cultivate, and evaluate effective and collaborative systems for district governance that engage multiple and diverse stakeholder groups, including school and district personnel, families, community stakeholders, and board members.

Component 7.3 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, engage in decision making around, implement, and appropriately communicate about district, state, and national policy, laws, rules, and regulations.

Component 7.4 Program completers understand the implications of larger cultural, social, economic, legal, and political interests, changes, and expectations and demonstrate the capacity to evaluate and represent district needs and priorities within larger policy conversations and advocate for district needs and priorities at the local, state, and national level.

Standard 8: Internship

Component 8.1 Candidates are provided a variety of coherent, authentic, field, or clinical internship experiences within

multiple district environments that afford opportunities to interact with stakeholders and synthesize and apply the content knowledge and develop and refine the professional skills articulated in each of the components included in NELP district-level program standards 1–7.

Component 8.2 Candidates are provided a minimum of six months of concentrated (10–15 hours per week) internship or clinical experiences that include authentic leadership activities within a district setting.

Component 8.3 Candidates are provided a mentor who has demonstrated effectiveness as an educational leader within a district setting; understands the specific district context; is present for a significant portion of the internship; is selected collaboratively by the intern, a representative of the district, and program faculty; and is provided with training by the supervising institution.