



Administrators' Back to School Tips: Illinois Learning Standards

- Science:** The Next Generation Science Standards require a significant shift in science education that will require most teachers to change how they teach science. Effectively supporting teachers in this shift requires an understanding of how to support teacher learning from initial training to continued professional learning.
- Social Science:** Social Science Standards at all grade levels are divided into two complementary portions: Inquiry Skills and Disciplinary Concepts. Both of these should be used in conjunction with each other within the classroom.
- Civics:** Section 27-22 of the School Code was amended by Public Act 99-434 and Public Act 99-485 to require the completion of at least one semester of civics education in order to graduate. The requirement is effective for students entering grade 9 in the 2016-17 school year and thereafter.
- English Language Arts:** Educators must be mindful of literacy research and continue to use those evidence-based practices within the framework of Common Core.
- Math:** Illinois Learning Standards for math incorporate a stronger focus, increased coherence, and strength with rigor into eight essential math practices. Two of the eight math practices focus on use of appropriate tools strategically and attention to precision while problem solving. Math instruction in the 21st century should focus on engaging students in problem solving, which allows students to explore the use of many tools. Students should “discover” what tools work and do not work, allowing math problem solving and discourse to evolve so that students can explain why the tools they chose work. This new math instructional focus will allow our students to evolve as creative thinkers and will build critical thinking skills that, in turn, will build a community of problem solvers.
- Physical Education:**
 - Train those administering physical fitness assessments and maintain evidence of training completion.
 - Establish procedures and protocols to ensure the confidentiality of individual student physical fitness assessment results.
 - Schedule and plan the administration of the required four portions of FitnessGram protocols in the second semester (first and second semester preferred for pre- and post-results) and annually thereafter.
 - Collect the required aggregate data from schools and report results electronically to ISBE through the Student Health Data in IWAS by May 1, and annually thereafter. (Note: Data may change to June 30 pending public comment and ISBE approval.)

Related Resources:

- [ISBE Illinois Learning Standards Page](#)
- [Principals as Leaders in New Generation Science Standards Implementation](#)
- [State Graduation Requirements](#)
- [Achieve the Core](#)