INTRODUCTION TO THE GAP ANALYSIS

On June 24, 2010 the Illinois State Board of Education adopted new Learning Standards for English/Language Arts and Mathematics. This Gap Analysis document is an informational tool designed to guide local steps towards increasing the awareness of the new standards and providing guidance to teachers at each grade level as they review curriculum and transition to full implementation. Local districts are encouraged to conduct their own review and analysis to initiate discussion based on what is taking place in their classrooms and analyzing local data.

Classroom teachers were convened in order to analyze the new standards and determine where curriculum and instructional changes might be needed. This group was well versed in the old Illinois Learning Standards and proved to be enthusiastic about the task. The teachers used a web-based tool developed by Achieve, Inc. to complete a gap analysis between the 1997 Learning Standards for Math and ELA and the newly adopted common core.

The group worked in small teams to determine:

- Which of the concepts and skills required in the New Illinois State Standards ARE included in the old standards?
- Which of the concepts and skills required in the New Illinois State Standards are NOT included in the old standards?
- How similar are the New Illinois State Standards with respect to the grade level performance descriptors?

Using their best professional judgment, the teachers completed this interpretation of the new and old standards. This document is not meant to be a fixed analysis of the content of the standards. Rather, it is meant to provide a starting point from which educators can organize and begin the necessary discussions about their local curricula.

Challenges

Illinois was well into the revision process of the high school standards for ELA and Math when the common core standards were released. Content teams for both subjects had already developed drafts of revised standards. The revised draft standards were loaded into the web based tool, not the current learning standards. The ELA and Math high school group used the 1997 standards and the revised documents loaded in the tool to identify matched and unmatched standards.
Additionally, the Early Learning Standards were not loaded into the web-based tool. However, they were used as a reference tool for the teachers working on the early grades.

**GENERAL FINDINGS**

- The group found that the new standards were **more specific than the old standards**. For example, a Kindergarten standard for English Language Arts in the New Illinois Standards for English Language Arts is: *With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the text in which they appear (e.g., what person, place, thin, or idea in the text and illustration depicts)*. The 1997 ILS kindergarten standard was to: *Investigate picture books, nursery rhymes, fairy tales, poems, legends, etc.* A Kindergarten standard for Mathematics in the New Illinois Standards for Mathematics is: *Understand addition as putting together and adding to, and understand subtraction as taking apart and taking from. Fluently add and subtract within 5*. This is much more specific than the 1997 ILS: *Solve simple math problems mentally, or by using objects, drawing pictures, etc.*

- Some of the unmatched New Illinois Learning Standards may require schools to **shift the grade level at which instruction** takes place. While most of the new standards are still within the broad grade bands of the 1997 ILS, the subject matter has shifted to a specific grade level.

- The Mathematics standards include a number of additional standards that are needed for entry into advanced classes. These are clearly marked with “+”. They also infuse the concept of modeling throughout all standard areas.

- The teachers agreed that the new standards were more clearly stated and focused. The depth and rigor is evident in the new standards. In some cases, the content was found in a lower grade level, which provided more opportunities for deeper understanding in the upper grades.

**OVERVIEW OF DOCUMENT**

The web-based analysis tool generated an excel spreadsheet of the 1997 learning standards and the new common core. The analysis is a side-by-side comparison. It is organized by the Illinois learning goals and the descriptors. Each file has a **no match** section. The UNMATCHED section of the excel file includes the common core standards that were not placed with any current Illinois learning standard. There are two separate files to view. There is an ELA excel file and a Math excel file. Each Excel spreadsheet can be found in the RESOURCES box on the New Learning Standards webpage. The math document is 227 pages. The ELA document is 385 pages. Individuals will be able to manipulate and sort the spreadsheets in a way that is preferable to the user.
The columns for the ELA document are described below:

- First column: the strand of the new standards (Codes below)
- Second column: the standard number of the new standards
- Third column: the Common Core Standard
- Fourth column: the grade level in which the new standards should be taught
- Fifth column: the grade level the 97 IL Learning Standard was taught
- Sixth, seventh and eighth columns: the 1997 IL learning standard number and strand

Codes for the ELA Strands of the New Illinois Learning Standards (the codes are listed at the bottom of each page of the analysis)

- Reading Standards for Literature: R.L.
- Reading Standards for Informational Text: R.I.
- Reading Standards: Foundational Skills: R.F.
- Writing: W
- Speaking and Listening: SL
- Language: L

The columns for the MATH document are described below:

- First column: the DOMAIN of the new standards
- Second column: the number of the new standards
- Third column: the common core standard
- Fourth column: the grade level in which the new standards should be taught
- Fifth column: the grade level that the 1997 IL Learning Standard was taught
- Sixth, seventh and eighth columns: the 1997 IL learning standards
How do I read the Illinois Gap Analysis?

State Goals

State Goal 1: Read with understanding and fluency

- Grades K-3
- Grades 4-5
- Grades 6-8

A. Apply word analysis and vocabulary skills to comprehend selections.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strand</th>
<th>Standard #</th>
<th>Common Core Standard</th>
<th>IL Grade Level</th>
<th>1997 Illinois Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R.L.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>R.L. 4.3.f: Use the meaning of the prefixes, suffixes, and roots in multi-word instructions.</td>
<td>K-3</td>
<td>1(R), A.1a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Code Key Below**

- R.L. Reading Literature
- R.F. Reading Foundation Skills
- W. Writing SL: Speaking Listening Language
- R.AST: Reading in Science and Technical Text
- R.H: Reading History
- W.HST: Writing History
- C.C: Common Core

Unmatched - Common Core Standards

Kindergarten

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Strand</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Common Core Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>R.L.</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>CC.K.R.L.9: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas. With prompting and support, compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in familiar stories.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**A separate excel file of the common core standards alone is available.**

This document is formatted to the 1997 Illinois Learning Standards. ELA and Math are two separate excel documents. Both files are separated into sections: State Goals, Descriptors 1-5, Descriptors 6-12, K-8 Goals, High School Goals and Unmatched.

Grade Levels are Color Coded based on 1997 ILS

1997 Illinois State Goal and Description or the Descriptor will be listed here.

The Strand Code or Domain according to Common Core is located on the bottom of every page.

The UNMATCHED section lists by grade level the common core standards not reflected in the 1997 IL Learning Standards according to the professional opinions of teachers completing the analysis. Local discussions may result in different opinions.
ADDITIONAL ELA INFORMATION

The New Illinois Learning Standards for English/Language Arts acknowledge the importance of reading, writing, speaking, listening and language in all subjects, not just English Language Arts. Therefore, the new standards include literacy standards specific to the content areas of history/social studies, science and technical subjects for grades 6-12. Teachers in these disciplines are best positioned to teach their students how to read, understand, listen, speak and write about their fields. For example, an important college/career readiness skill is to read, comprehend and communicate about complex informational text. This skill will take on more meaning when students are held to the same high expectations in their History class as in their English class.

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION FOR MATH

The New Illinois Learning Standards for Mathematics are designed to prepare all students for entry into credit-bearing college course work and entry-level jobs. They also describe the content needed by students who intend to study more advanced mathematics and indicate that content with the symbol *. The standards are organized by:

- Domain: larger groups of related standards
- Standards: statements that define what students should understand and be able to do
- Clusters: groups of related standards

In addition, there are eight standards of mathematical practice that apply across grades K-12:

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- Model with mathematics
- Use appropriate tools strategically
- Attend to precision
- Look for and make use of structure
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning
**Additional Resources:**

1. An overview powerpoint of the design and organization of the new standards is attached.

2. For curriculum maps and other common core resources visit. [www.commoncore.org](http://www.commoncore.org)

3. Visit the ISBE website for additional resources, [www.isbe.net/common_core](http://www.isbe.net/common_core)

4. Visit the Achieve website for benchmark information, workplace tasks, course pathways and many other items, [www.achieve.org](http://www.achieve.org)

5. ACT has a crosswalk listed, [http://www.act.org/commoncore/pdf/CommonCoreAlignment.pdf](http://www.act.org/commoncore/pdf/CommonCoreAlignment.pdf)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Illinois State Board of Education would like to acknowledge the commitment and expertise of those who participated in the analysis work.

Angela Balanag  Grant Community HS District 124
Gail Bohnenstiehl  Crete Monee 201U
Melanie Brink  Pontiac-William Holliday SD 105
Jen Burisek  CUSD District 201
Lori Butts  Marshall CUSD C-2
Carmel Cottrell  Schaumburg District 54
Amy Courson-Brock  Heritage School District
Daniel DeLong  Southwestern High School
Kay Dugan  Bensenville District 2
Judi Herzog  Belle Valley School District #119
Robin Kasper  Tinley Park CD 146
John Meinzen  Edwardsville CUSD #7
Tim Miller  Oswego Township HS Dist 219
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Michael Novak  Parkview School District 70
Janelle Oxford  Robinson High School
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Joyce Krumtinger  ISBE
Nick Pinchok  Great Lakes West
Rachel Trimble  Great Lakes West
Margo Gottlieb  Illinois Resource Center