



The Illinois Learning Standards and English Language Learners

The Illinois Learning Standards are a set of math and English language arts standards designed to ensure that students will graduate with the necessary skills to be successful at academic college courses and in the workplace.

The Illinois Learning Standards are:

- Grade-specific learning standards in math and English Language Arts
- Higher, clearer, deeper and based on what students must learn to succeed in college and modern careers
- Creating the same expectations for all students so families can understand exactly what every student should learn
- Emphasizing skills students will need for the modern workplace: collaboration, critical thinking, communication, and creativity
- Built upon strengths and lessons from the highest-performing states and countries

The Illinois Learning Standards lay out what each student should know at the end of every grade, but it is still up to your student's teacher to determine the best way to get them there.

What are the advantages for English Language Learners?

Literacy across the board: The Illinois Learning Standards call for literacy in *all* subjects. This means that teachers of every subject will be responsible for promoting reading, writing, speaking and listening skills providing English language learners with more opportunity to practice their language skills. This will help prepare them to participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on other's ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

Language usage in different contexts: Students will be provided with the opportunity of working with complex texts, both literary and informational, and the academic language necessary to succeed in school. Incorporating literacy into all subjects will help English language learners adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

Consistency: The Illinois Learning Standards create consistent learning expectations among districts and schools across Illinois and the other states that have adopted Common Core-aligned standards. This consistency means that students are being taught to college and career ready standards no matter where they live or what their native language.

Grade-Level content: With very clear, specific grade-level content spelled out by the Illinois Learning Standards, no student should be held back in order to meet language requirements.

What can parents do?

- **Support learning at home.** Parents can support their children's success by asking them to talk about what they are learning in school, reading to and with their kids, and providing opportunities to learn new things at home or in the community. This support does not have to be provided in English; children will benefit no matter what language parents use.
- **Find out more about how your school is implementing the Illinois Learning Standards.** Look for parent updates about the standards and ask for information in your home language. By being informed about the new standards, you will be better prepared to help your child make this important transition.
- **Get active in your child's school.** Take advantage of the opportunities for parent involvement that your school offers like volunteering in the classroom or for school activities. Side by side, you and your child will rise to the challenge of the new learning standards.

Additional Resources

Learn more about the Illinois Learning Standards:

- Real Learning for Real Life – www.reallearningil.org
- Illinois State Board of Education – www.isbe.net/ils/

WWW.REALLEARNINGIL.ORG