



Realizing Illinois

Our Students. . .Our Promise. . .Our Future

Leading Our Students to 21st Century Success

Illinois has joined more than 30 states in the American Diploma Project (ADP) to better position itself to prepare students for college and the workforce. This is an exciting initiative that will drive change in curriculum, instruction and assessment and foster rigor and relevance to more than 2 million students in our classrooms. This is our renewed commitment to Realizing Illinois . . . our students . . .our promise . . . our future.

What is the American Diploma Project (ADP)?

ADP is an initiative of Achieve, Inc., a non-profit organization created by the nation's governors and business leaders to help raise academic standards. Achieve's ADP Network is an initiative that challenges states to reform education so that all students graduate from high school prepared to succeed in postsecondary education and the workplace. States that join ADP agree to develop high school learning standards that prepare students for success, using national benchmarks to guide them.

What is the goal of joining ADP?

Membership in the American Diploma Project will bring needed coherence between standards, curriculum, assessments and college entry requirements. Illinois joins an ADP class that includes California and Florida in reviewing and revising what students need to know and should be able to do in order to be successful in both college and their careers. **Illinois will be the first group of states to not only use national benchmarks, but also look at what other countries require of their students. Our goal is to produce fewer, clearer and higher Illinois Learning Standards that align to college and career ready expectations.**

What is the timeline for this initiative?

Work will begin in January, 2009 and take 18-24 months to complete. The review process will include an analysis of K-8 standards and their alignment to the new high school standards. Design teams for English Language Arts and Math will begin working early in 2009, and the content team for science will convene in summer, 2009.

What is the role of business and workforce partners?

The Illinois workforce requires an educational system that is responsive to its needs and trends. To accomplish this, the expertise and input of our workforce partners is critical to preparing every student for the realities of their career choices. Business and workforce partners will help identify skills and abilities needed for a student to be successful in the workplace and to incorporate those into the Illinois Learning Standards.

Who are the partners with the project?

This initiative is a partnership between the Illinois State Board of Education with the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Business Roundtable and the Governor's Office.

Will I be able to provide feedback on the new standards?

Absolutely. All stakeholders are invited and encouraged to comment on the draft Learning standards. The comment period is expected to begin in late March and continue until early summer.

If you are interested in more information or becoming involved, please email Illinois State Board of Education's Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Staff, Susie Morrison at smorriso@isbe.net.