

## A Brief Introduction to the Survey of the Enacted Curriculum: A Tool for Illinois Educators

### Wouldn't you like to know?

- The concepts actually taught in your department?
- What standards students in different curricular paths at your school cover before graduation?
- The comparison of your district and department emphasis with the state's standards and performance descriptors?
- The overall picture of what is taught including how and when the concepts are taught?
- How your work in your classroom could be used to shape important decisions for your school?
- How you're doing as a school in spiraling conceptual learning and to what extent you're consistent or redundant across grade levels and different courses and kinds of courses?

**The Surveys of the Enacted Curriculum (SEC)** is an on-line tool to assist you in answering these and other important questions. The Council of Chief State School Officers contracted with the University of Wisconsin to develop the SEC to provide educators with graphical information to provide a deeper perspective of what is really going on as a whole in classrooms.

Illinois has coded the performance descriptors for stages A-J to the neutral grid of the SEC for English Language Arts/Reading, Math, and Science. Teachers use their lesson plan books, texts, and other instructional materials and discuss their practices with one another to complete the on-line survey, which takes about 1 and ½ hours to complete. Teachers target a single class and single learning area as they take the survey (e.g., third period math or fourth grade science). The cost is \$12.50 per teacher per survey. The "Instructional Content" section takes the most time and solicits the topics and expectations for students that have been enacted in the classroom. In all, the survey covers 16 topics and numerous reporting formats are available for analysis as soon as the survey is completed.

### Survey Topics

<b>School and Class Description</b>	<b>Process of Inquiry</b>
<b>Instructional Content</b>	<b>Use of Assessment Strategies</b>
<b>Use of Homework</b>	<b>Instructional Influences</b>
<b>Instructional Activities</b>	<b>Instructional Preparation</b>
<b>Text based Activities</b>	<b>Teacher Opinions and Beliefs</b>
<b>Small Group Work</b>	<b>Professional Development</b>
<b>Hands-On and Technology Activities</b>	<b>Teacher Characteristics</b>
<b>Formal Course Preparation</b>	<b>Instructional Sources</b>

Illinois' Math and Science Partnerships have used the SEC as part of the evaluation design for their projects from the beginning. Last spring and summer, the Math and Science Partnerships participated in a pilot with Career and Technical Education Teachers and teachers in Illinois Comprehensive School Reform high schools focusing on the SEC's usefulness in Illinois initiatives. For more information, go to this link ([article](#)) for an article telling one district's story using the SEC and to the SEC site <http://seconline.wceruw.org/secWebHome.htm> for multiple resources and information.

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