

Common Core Standards Approved by the Illinois State Board of Education

The Illinois State Board of Education approved the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics at their June board meeting. In order for them to go into effect immediately, the board directed that these be sent to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules as an Emergency Amendment. This was done in order for the ISBE to be able to participate in the "Race To The Top" competitive funding initiative of the US Department of Education.

The intent is to replace the current Illinois Goals for Learning for English Language Arts and Mathematics with the Common Core Standards. At the present, the other subject goals stay the same. Emphasis from the state board will be to ramp up the education community in regards to the changes for English Language Arts and Mathematics now and work on the subject area goals at a later date.

The state board recognizes that this change cannot be done in one year. A timeline has been established for the introduction and implementation of the standards as well as the changes to be made to the assessment instruments.

ISBE has placed information in regards to the Common Core Standards on their website. The main page for Common Core information is <http://isbe.net/ADP/default.htm> .

Be sure to look at the information provided via the links in the upper right hand side of the page. Of interest is the new link labeled Back to School http://isbe.net/ADP/htmls/back_to_school.htm

On the right hand side of the Back to School page are two important links -- an overview document and a Power Point presentation. These are important in that they present the timeline for implementation of the Common Core Standards and other matters such as assessment and local expectations for 2010-2011 school year. The document and Power Point file can be used for inservice at the local level.

The ISBE will be preparing other materials to help with the transition to new Illinois Learning Standards throughout the school year. Once these are developed they will be posted to the Common Core main webpage at the address given above.

It is important that school librarians become informed about the Common Core standards. The state board has made a commitment to the concept and thus it is important for all to be involved and gives librarians the opportunity to take a leadership role.

For more information on the Common Core State Standards, go to www.corestandards.org.