




Illinois State Board of Education

Dr. Tony Sanders, State Superintendent of Education
Dr. Steven Isoye, Chair of the Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable JB Pritzker, Governor
The Honorable Tony McCombie, House Minority Leader
The Honorable Don Harmon, Senate President
The Honorable John Curran, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Emanuel "Chris" Welch, Speaker of the House

FROM: Dr. Tony Sanders 
State Superintendent of Education

DATE: June 15, 2023

SUBJECT: 2020-2023 Strategic Plan Status Report

In compliance with 105 ILCS 5/2-3.47a, the enclosed provides a status report on ISBE's Strategic Plan.

This report is transmitted on behalf of the State Superintendent of Education. For more information, please contact Jennifer Saba, interim Executive Director, Legislative Affairs at (217) 782-6510 or jsaba@isbe.net.

cc: Secretary of the Senate
Clerk of the House
Legislative Research Unit
State Government Report Center

ISBE Strategic Plan

2022-2023 Annual Status Report



Introduction

As required in 105 ILCS 5/2-3.47a, the State Board of Education shall develop and maintain a continuing comprehensive strategic plan for elementary and secondary education. The 2020-2023 Strategic Plan was approved by the State Board of Education on November 19, 2020. The plan consists of goals for equity, student learning, learning conditions, and elevating educators. The plan acknowledges that every district contains unique assets and requires different approaches to support and develop these assets.

The Strategic Plan leverages the wide range of talents and interests of ISBE staff, practicing educators, and stakeholders and considers how best to support agency work during and in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This report provides an update on the status of the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan, including:

1. Highlights of from the work of the strategic plan during 2023;
2. Information on the extension of 2020-2023 Strategic Plan through FY 2024 while the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan is in development; and
3. The process for the creation of the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.

The goals identified in the 2020-2023 ISBE Strategic Plan are:

- **Equity Goal (Internal)** - An equity impact analysis tool will guide all decisions and communications provided to the field.
- **Equity Goal (External)** - An Equity Journey Continuum will be used to publicly indicate where each Illinois school district is on its equity journey.
- **Goal 1: Student Learning** - Every child will make significant academic gains each year, increasing their knowledge, skills, and opportunities so they graduate equipped to pursue a successful future, with the state paying special attention to addressing historic inequities.
- **Goal 2: Learning Conditions** - All districts and schools will receive the resources necessary to create safe, healthy, and welcoming learning environments, and will be equipped to meet the unique academic and social and emotional needs of each and every student.
- **Goal 3: Elevating Educators** - Illinois' diverse student population will have educators who are prepared through multiple pathways and are supported in and celebrated for their efforts to provide each and every child an education that meets their needs.

Highlights from **FY 2023**

EQUITY GOAL **External**

Strategy	Accomplishment
An Equity Journey Continuum will be used to publicly indicate where each Illinois school district is on its equity journey	ISBE released an Equity Journey Continuum for each district on the 2022 Illinois School Report Card.

STRATEGY **1.1**

Strategy	Accomplishment
<p>Support best practices and continuous quality improvement, including an emphasis on equity and diversity, in order to support student learning while also addressing remote and blended learning.</p>	<p>ISBE delivered a series of professional learning opportunities for practicing teachers focusing on the revised social science standards and the new Asian American inclusion instructional mandate (the Teaching Equitable Asian American Community History Act).</p>

STRATEGY **1.2**

Strategy	Accomplishment
<p>Assist districts in addressing COVID-19's impact on learning resulting from the suspension of in-person instruction by providing supports pertaining to Priority Learning Standards.</p>	<p>ISBE provided continued support for the implementation of the Priority Learning Standards.</p>

STRATEGY 2.1.1

Strategy	Accomplishment
Support schools to address the social and emotional needs of students, educators, and staff impacted by COVID-19 by providing them with high-quality professional development.	ISBE partnered with the Center for Childhood Resilience at Lurie Children’s Hospital to expand the Resilience Education to Advance Community Healing initiative statewide and make other social-emotional learning (SEL) supports, available through regional SEL Hubs.

STRATEGY 2.1.3

Strategy	Accomplishment
Adopt culturally responsive teaching and leading standards for educator preparation programs.	ISBE provided content expertise for institutions of higher education with approved teacher preparation programs as they aligned their programs with the Culturally Relevant Teaching and Leading Standards .

STRATEGY 2.2.1

Strategy	Accomplishment
Strategic resource allocation decision-making will be used across and within Local Education Agencies.	ISBE provided updated resource allocation tools for districts to use in their budgeting work.

STRATEGY 2.2.3

Strategy	Accomplishment
Create an efficient and effective reporting system in collaboration with the field that encourages and fosters braiding and blending.	ISBE worked in concert with Regional Comprehensive Center 9 to publish a guide to support the blending and braiding of funds .

STRATEGY 3.1

Strategy	Accomplishment
Leverage and align partnerships that lead to the recruitment of a diverse teaching corps.	ISBE provided resources to support of the recruitment and retention of highly effective educators.

STRATEGY 3.3

Strategy	Accomplishment
Improve incentives, training, and partnerships for districts to attract and support teachers in early childhood, special education, and bilingual programs.	ISBE released grant opportunities supporting the recruitment and retention of teachers.

Extension of 2020-2023 Strategic Plan

The current Strategic Plan concludes on June 30, 2023; however, ISBE will extend the plan through FY 2024. ISBE shall submit a report to the Governor and General Assembly prior to July 1, 2024, with any updates to the plan as well as early progress in achieving its goals. The extension of the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan, which aligns with the requirements in statute,¹ includes, but is not limited to, the continuation of:

- **Equity Goal (External)** - The public-facing Equity Journey Continuum for all school districts;
- **Goal 1, Strategy 1.1** - Professional learning for educators focused on alignment of district-approved curricula to the Illinois Learning Standards;
- **Goal 2, Strategy 2.1.5** - Curation of resources and updated reporting materials that endeavor to improve equitable and strategic resource allocation occurring in schools;
- **Goal 2, Strategy 2.2.1** - The availability of SEL Hubs across Illinois to enhance student mental health and well-being;
- **Goal 2, Strategy 2.1.4** - Learning opportunities and targeted supports to address and reduce implicit bias in school and district practices;
- **Goal 3, Strategy 3.1** - Providing institutions of higher education with approved teacher preparation programs support from content experts as they develop their diverse educator recruitment and retention plans; and
- **Goal 3, Strategy 3.3** - Grant programs supporting educators in obtaining the English Learner/bilingual endorsement, supporting the retention of special education teachers, and supporting other teacher pipeline objectives.

2025-2030 Strategic Plan

The Illinois State Board of Education hired Dr. Tony Sanders, previously the superintendent of Elgin-area School District U-46, as the state superintendent effective February 23, 2023. Upon his arrival, Dr. Sanders began a 90-day listening and learning tour across Illinois, including meetings with practitioners, stakeholders, and ISBE staff. The listening tour will inform the development of priorities and a vision for ISBE for future years. Dr. Sanders will lead the development of the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, working with the Board, ISBE staff, and stakeholders during the remainder of 2023.

¹Note that the continuation projects identified align with the requirements of 105 ILCS 5/2-3.47a. In particular, any Strategic Plan developed and implemented by ISBE must include work pertaining to: service and support to school districts to improve student performance, programs to improve equitable and strategic resource allocation in all schools, and efforts to enhance the social-emotional well-being of Illinois students.



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