



Illinois State Board of Education VISION

Illinois is a state of whole, healthy children nested in whole, healthy systems supporting communities wherein all citizens are socially and economically secure.

ACTION GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

This action guide is intended to provide information and resources to support a family's role as partner in their child's learning.

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3-5 Family Backpack Guide

Illinois Learning Standards



In 2010 Illinois adopted the Illinois Learning Standards incorporating Common Core to support success for all students. These standards were written by educators and experts, in order to provide a consistent, clear and challenging set of grade level learning expectations for all students.

Why Are the New Illinois Learning Standards Important?

The Illinois Learning Standards help all children learn the knowledge and practice skills to be successful in each grade level. These standards set clear expectations for what every student should know and be supported in successful performance in key areas such as: reading, writing, speaking and listening, language, mathematics, science, and social science.

These standards ensure classroom learning builds on the prior year's learning and prepares students for the next year. As you get to know the grade level expectations, working with your child(ren)'s teacher becomes a two-fold support for their learning. To learn more about the standards and their intended impact on educational excellence visit:

<http://www.ilteachervoices.org/>

	What to Look for in the Backpack	What Can You Do at Home
English Language Arts (ELA)	Look for your children to bring home more fact-based books.	Find non-fiction books that are appropriate and make sure your child has access to such books.
	Your children will have reading and writing assignments that might ask them to retell or write about key parts of a story or book.	Provide non-fiction texts for your child to read. Show them how to dig deeper into difficult parts by helping them reread and talking with you about them.
	Look for written assignments that ask your child to draw on specific examples from that text that serve as evidences. Evidence means examples from the book that your child will use to support a response or conclusion.	Ask your child to provide evidence in everyday discussions and disagreements. Ask questions that prompt them to tell you how they know or where they received their information.
	Look for writing tasks that ask your child to state opinions in writing using evidence from what they read.	Encourage writing at home. Write together using evidence and details.
	Look for reading and writing tasks that stretch your child's vocabulary.	Read often to and with your child(ren).



Mathematics	What to Look for in the Backpack	What Can You Do at Home
	Look for assignments that require students to show their work and explain in writing how they arrived at an answer.	Know what concepts are important for your child based on their grade level and spend time working on those concepts.
	Look for assignments that build on one another. For example, students will focus on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Once these are mastered, they will focus on fractions.	Ask your child about the math they are doing at school. Encourage them to talk about the math. Ask them how they are learning to add, subtract, etc.
	Your child might have assignments that focus on memorizing and mastering basic math facts, which are important for success in more advanced math problems.	Be aware of what concepts your child struggled with last year and support your child in those challenge areas.
	Your child might have assignments that include demonstrations of the Standards for Mathematical Practice. These are the same for all grades and describe a set of skills and processes that all students should develop as part of their study of mathematics.	Help your child know and memorize basic math facts. Ask your child to “do the math” that pops up in daily life.
	Look for math assignments that are based on the real world.	Provide time every day for your child to work on math at home.

COMPREHENSIVE SKILLS		
3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
Reading closely to find main ideas and supporting details in a story	Describing the basic elements of stories – such as characters, events, and settings – by drawing on specific details in the text	Summarizing the key details of stories, dramas, poems, and nonfiction materials, including their own themes or main ideas
Describing the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in stories	Comparing ideas, characters, events, and settings in stories and myths from different countries	Identifying and judging evidence that supports particular ideas in an author’s argument to change a reader’s point of view
Comparing the most important points and key details presented in two books on the same topic	Writing summaries or opinions about topics supported with facts, details, and examples	Expanding, combining, and reducing sentences to improve meaning, interest, and style of writing
Writing opinions or explanations that group related information and develop topics with facts and details	Reporting orally on a topic or telling a story with enough facts and details	Producing writing on the computer
Solving word problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division	Using whole-number arithmetic to solve word problems, including problems with remainders and problems with measurements	Adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators and solving word problems of this kind
Beginning to multiply numbers with more than one digit	Adding and subtracting whole numbers quickly and accurately (numbers up to one million)	Understanding the concept of volume, and solving word problems that involve volume
Understanding fractions and relating them to the familiar system of whole numbers	Understanding single decimals in terms of fractions and place value	Graphing points in the coordinate plane (two dimensions) to solve problems
Reasoning about shapes (e.g. all squares are rectangles but not all rectangles are squares)	Measuring angles and finding unknown angles in a diagram	Analyzing mathematical patterns and relationships

Did you know there are standards in all of these areas?

- Science
- Social Science
- Fine Arts
- Enhanced PE
- Social Emotional Learning



SUPPORTING THE WHOLE CHILD!

Learning Supports

For decades, Illinois has been a national leader in support of the whole child through a comprehensive system of learning supports. The reality of these efforts has culminated in linking prevention and intervention services and systems to reduce barriers in learning and teaching to community efforts to support public health and intensive intervention needs. Some topics that fall under this district and school area are:

- 1) Health & Wellness
- 2) Brain Development
- 3) Nutrition
- 4) Children's Mental Health
- 5) Enhanced Physical Education
- 6) Social Emotional Learning
- 7) Student Engagement
- 8) School Culture & Climate
- 9) Family Engagement

Here are some recommended resources for families:

HOW DO WE KNOW MY CHILD IS LEARNING?

Educators measure learning through assessments, such as:

- how prepared a student is for learning (what does a student already know)
- the level of knowledge and/or skill students have acquired after teaching
- snapshots of student retention and use of knowledge or skills

Assessments help educators support student learning by:

- identifying what specific knowledge, skills or concepts need additional attention
- identifying needed changes in the instruction to meet student needs
- identifying the need for additional learning supports

Teachers support student learning everyday through formative assessment. Formative assessment is the frequent “checks for learning” in the classroom . It provides the dual purpose of giving students an awareness of their learning as well as guiding the teacher to instructional adjustments. Strategies used in formative assessment include: student response via white boards, exit slips, structured group discussion, response by technology, learning logs, student portfolio entries, informational observations, artifacts, and self and peer reflections. The responses obtained through observation, conversation, formative assessment checks, quizzes, tests, etc. allow students to demonstrate their learning over time.

Quality assessment will not only reflects student knowledge, but also informs and motivates the student to take charge and responsibility of the their learning.

Formative assessment is used by teachers on a daily basis. There are two additional types of assessment that make up a balanced assessment system used to inform educational decisions at the classroom, district and state level. Interim assessments are used by educators periodically throughout the year for predicting student success, evaluating ongoing programs and informing teaching and learning. Summative assessments are used for evaluating student programs or to school success at an end point in time.

Possible Questions for Parents to ask Teachers:

- Can you show me examples of my child’s work that demonstrates their understanding of important concepts?
- How does my child know that they have mastered a specific task or if they comprehend material?
- How often will I learn about my child’s progress in learning? How will I get this information?
- How can I, as a parent, learn more about how assessments are used to support my child’s learning?

HOW CAN I ENGAGE WITH MY SCHOOL?

Within the Classroom

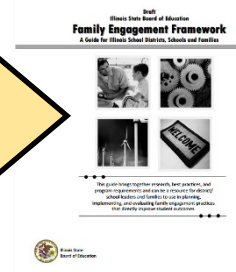
1. **STAY UP TO DATE!** Communicate changes in address, phone number, and email address as soon as possible - and inform teachers of your preference!
2. **KEEP A SCHEDULE!** Your time is valuable and teacher/school prepared calendars can be valuable for supporting learning and/or special events.
3. **OPEN YOUR HOME!** Allowing a teacher to visit your home (especially when your children are young) can be a bridge builder between places in your child's world.
4. **SHARE LIFE!** Life events (positive and challenging) can impact your child at school (new sibling, new pet, vacation, sports/music/community achievement, new health issue, separation/divorce, moving, passing of pet, family stress, etc.)
5. **VOLUNTEER!** Time can be offered for different levels of involvement including review of social emotional lessons at home (offering best possible amounts of rest/sleep, nutrition, value for educational success, - OR - assist teacher with prep work, field trips, lunch/recess support, fundraising, etc.)

Within the School Building

1. **SMILE!** Smiles and a thank you can support those who support your child.
2. **PARTICIPATE!** Showing up and following the directions of the event staff are so helpful when schools gather families together to share what they've accomplished. Let these events be about the kids!
3. **RESPECT!** If there are times you don't agree with decisions being made at school, model respectful ways to share your feelings and opinions. ASK for clarity, then ASK for a conversation, then ASK for collaboration towards a solution.
4. **DON'T FORGET!** Educators have a great deal of responsibility to ALL families. If something takes place that you interpret as negative or unnecessary - be forgiving. If there is something your child needs, contact your school and discuss it.
5. **CELEBRATE!** - The entire school staff participate to meet your child's needs, recognizing their efforts throughout the school year reminds them that you're watching!

Know how to encourage engagement at your school! ISBE offers a guide for family engagement on their website.

<http://www.isbe.net/family-engagement/default.htm>



HOW CAN I SUPPORT LEARNING AT HOME?

5 options for families to check on daily/weekly learning:

① What math words are you using in class?
Let's notice when we use math!
Can you help me figure this math out?

② Let's look at your Math work!
Can you tell me how you solved these?
Can you teach me how to do that?

③ What are you writing this week?
What do you like to write about?
How would you have written that story?

④ What new words did you learn today?
What do they mean?
Let's use them in a new sentence!

⑤ What did you read today?
What specific part of what you were reading today interested you?
Tell me about today's readings?



Modified by ISBE Content Specialists from Achieve materials.
www.achieve.org

RESOURCES TO HELP AT HOME

<http://www.isbe.net/homework.htm>

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/everything/ages-6-7>

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/everything/ages-8-10>

<https://www.common sense media.org/guide/essential-school-tools>

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/how-parents-can-support-common-core-reading-standards>

<https://homeworkhelpdesk.org/>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

<http://greatminds.net/parents>

<http://commoncoreil.org>

<http://raisethebarparents.org/>

Additional ISBE Family Engagement Resources:

<http://www.isbe.net>

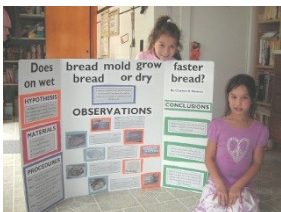
English Language Learning - <http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/ellparents.htm>

Early Childhood Education - <http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/default.htm>

Learning Supports - <http://www.isbe.net/learningsupports/html/partnerships.htm>

Special Education and Support Services - <http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/parents.htm>

Innovation and Improvement - <http://www.isbe.net/grants/html/parent.htm>



INFORMATION CONNECTING MY FAMILY AND SCHOOL.

Who is my first contact with any concerns?	My Child's School Info:	When and how will I get to share my opinion throughout the school year?
Who might be my second contact for concerns?	My Child's Teacher Info:	

What individuals are part of the team that cares for my child while at school (names)?

Bus Driver(s)	Music
Cafeteria	PE
Counselor	
Recess	
Librarian	
Nurse	

Who do I call if I need help with my child's needs?	What person has my child built a positive relationship with and trusts besides his/her teacher:	Who can I call if I need assistance for my whole family?
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Local District & School Information