



Subject: Curriculum Update

Date: April 15, 2025

Winter-Spring Updates: The period following winter break until the start of spring break is an extremely busy time in District 45 and most Illinois School Districts. Mandated assessments such as IAR (Illinois Assessment of Readiness), ISA (Illinois Science Assessment), ACCESS for ELLs, DLM (Dynamic Learning Map), and the 5Essentials Survey all fall within this window. In addition to mandated assessments, the district administers the winter MAP Assessments, the CogAT in grades 2 and 5, and the winter pulse surveys.

Within this time frame are two Institute Days - an in-house Institute Day in January and the Countywide Institute in February, when some staff remain in-house and others attend Countywide offerings.

Spring-end of Year: This is the time when the Curriculum Department simultaneously experiences the end of this school year while planning for the start of the next school year. We conduct Professional Learning Needs Surveys. This year, we have asked our SLTs to complete one from the building's perspective, and we will send it out to all teachers this week.

Planning professional development for an entire school district for a whole year is never easy. Balancing the competing needs of the district, buildings, departments, and teachers is a delicate balance. Ensuring we identify our "big rocks" and align our efforts while honoring differences and trying to provide some level of choice is daunting, and the results from the professional learning needs surveys help to accomplish this task.

Professional Development Events: Providing professional development opportunities is critical to the success of initial and ongoing curriculum implementation efforts. The following is a list of district-provided professional development opportunities since we returned from winter break:

- Inclusion Training with Kathy Slattery from Starnet
- ARC Foundational Skills session
- ARC Reading Comprehension session
- Studies Weekly PD
- Connect to Literacy Summit K12
- Working with Newcomers
- Inclusive Trauma-Informed Practices with Immigrants
- Illinois SLD Project: Working with MLLs with Disabilities
- ARC MTSS and Dyslexia Session
- IEP Writing PS with Cindy D'Ambrosio
- A variety of Countywide sessions
- ARC Learning Lab for special education teachers
- ARC Learning Lab for Instructional Coaches
- ARC Leadership Learning Series