



ILLINOIS Pathways

Illinois Pathways, funded through Race to the Top, is a new and innovative State of Illinois-led STEM education initiative designed to support college and career readiness for all students. Through partnership between the State of Illinois' education and economic development agencies, Illinois Pathways supports local programs that empower students to explore their academic and career interests. It is also creating new statewide, public-private partnerships known as Learning Exchanges that better coordinate investments, resources and planning for those programs.

Why Illinois Pathways?

As Illinois' economy continues to recover it is critically important to understand how our economy is both growing and changing. More importantly, we need to make sure our education system is supporting students in developing the skills and knowledge that will ensure they are competitive in a 21st century economy. As part of this effort, the State of Illinois' P-20 Council has established a goal to increase the proportion of Illinoisans with high-quality degrees and credentials from 44 percent to 60 percent by the year 2025.

What is a STEM Learning Exchange?

STEM Learning Exchanges are a new and innovative network of statewide public-private partnerships organized by career cluster that work to coordinate planning and investment and reduce the transaction cost between partners to support local P-20 STEM programs. Each STEM Learning Exchange is governed by a consortium of education partners, businesses, industry associations, and other stakeholders that coordinate programs, partnerships, and investments across nine defined functions.



Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Illinois State Board of Education
Illinois Community College Board
Illinois Board of Higher Education
Illinois Student Assistance Commission
Illinois Department of Employment Security

ILLINOIS Pathways



Nine Functions of a STEM Learning Exchange

1. Provide Curriculum Resources
2. Expand Access to Equipment
3. Support Peer-to-Peer Networks
4. Provide Work-Based Learning
5. Sponsor Challenges
6. Provide Professional Development
7. Provide Career Development
8. Review Program of Study Model
9. Review P-20 Pipeline Performance



Value Proposition for P-20 Education, Workforce, and Business Partners

- 1) Reduce Transaction Cost between Public-Private Partners**
STEM Learning Exchanges serve as a common platform that can achieve economies of scale by improving the process of identifying and connecting with statewide public-private partners and peer-to-peer networks across the nine functions.
- 2) Increase Alignment of Existing Investments while Promoting Brand**
Work in coordination with other career cluster partners to comprehensively support a talent pipeline by aligning existing investments and identifying new program or resource opportunities, all while maintaining unique branding.
- 3) Increase Access to Curricular and Instructional Supports**
Utilize a common platform, partners can aggregate resources to support statewide program delivery networks while leveraging economies of scale.
- 4) Improve Talent Pipelines and College and Career Planning Systems**
Involve public-private partners to co-engineer statewide STEM program models ensuring college and career readiness (e.g. standards, courses, credentialing, work-based learning, credit articulation, etc...) as well as P-20 education and workforce alignment.
- 5) Review Data for Continuous Improvement and Return on Investment**
Review talent pipeline performance by aggregating the impact of statewide programs and resources through linked education and workforce data that demonstrates a return on investment, and informs future planning and continuous improvement.

