

ILLINOIS Pathways

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Learning Exchanges



The State of Illinois' P-20 Council has set a goal to increase the proportion of Illinoisans with high-quality degrees and credentials from 44 percent to 60 percent by the year 2025.

By 2018 Illinois employers will offer over 319,000 jobs requiring education and training in STEM, increasing nearly 20 percent since 2008. According to Georgetown University, Center on Education and the Workforce, over 90 percent of those STEM occupations will require postsecondary education or training. To grow the economy and maintain its competitiveness, preparing students for STEM careers is essential.

Illinois Pathways is a new and innovative State of Illinois-led STEM initiative designed to support college and career readiness for learners and better prepare youth and adults for transitions into employment.

Implementation is coordinated through the State of Illinois' education, workforce, and economic development agencies to support:

- Local STEM programs that empower students to explore academic and career interests, develop skills, access employment, and grow in careers.
- STEM Learning Exchanges that coordinate investments, resources, and planning among employers and education partners across P-20 education and workforce systems.



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STEM Learning Exchanges have been formed for selected career clusters to improve the coordination and delivery of resources, work-based learning opportunities, career guidance, and partnerships that support local STEM programs.

Each STEM Learning Exchange is overseen by a lead organization responsible for coordinating a statewide network of businesses, employer associations, education, and other partners. STEM Learning Exchanges are being launched using Race to the Top funds, but are supported by funding commitments from public-private partners. Seven of the STEM Learning Exchanges will be provided with implementation funds for three years to begin coordinating and delivering support for their career cluster. An additional one STEM Learning Exchange will be provided with planning funds for one year to build their network and further develop capacity for implementation.

Illinois Pathways STEM Learning Exchanges



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Illinois State Board of Education
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Illinois Department of Employment Security



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