

Tips for Using I-SAIL

I-SAIL is a framework designed to be used with the content areas that you work with throughout your school. It is not a curriculum to be used separately as your library program. This document is ever-changing and will expand as Illinois adds Common Core Standards (CC) in additional content areas.

I-SAIL is divided into individual grade levels from K-12. It contains five main library standards with bullets underneath that help to define them. Also, benchmarks and objectives are included to assist you in planning and setting goals.

The biggest change in I-SAIL is the addition of the Illinois Common Core Standards. You will find these listed in the first of three columns, with the AASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner, and NETS-S technology standards placed in the middle and right column. The CC standards are organized by strands. On each page you will find the strand code to help you find the needed CC standards for your lessons.

Strategies for Using I-SAIL:

There are two ways to use I-SAIL effectively. You may need to take your current lesson plans and go through the appropriate grade level looking at the basic standards as well as the CC standards for a suitable match. Another way to use this document is to go through the CC standards looking for ideas of lessons to design that will teach the needed standards. The AASL standards will assist you in clarifying the standards. If your lesson includes technology, don't forget to look at the NETSS standards.

I-SAIL also offers the chance for the library staff to sit down together (school-wide and/or district-wide) and look at the selected CC standards for your grade levels. This would get all of the staff thinking about how we can teach needed skills to our students in many of the different content areas and brainstorming what CC standards relate to the lessons we teach every year.

***Hint!** Take baby steps at first. It is easy to be overwhelmed. Start by just designing a few lessons or aligning just a few standards to match your lesson plans.

Using I-SAIL as an Advocacy Tool:

Want to be the go-to person in your building for the CC Standards? It is easy with I-SAIL! Keep a printed copy of I-SAIL on your desk, or out in the library, where teachers and administrators will see it. As you work with teachers collaborating and co-teaching make sure you reinforce the CC standards that you are addressing with your lesson(s). Invite yourself to department meetings so you can make them aware of I-SAIL and how you can assist them. You will become their new best friend.

If you turn in written lesson plans to your administrator, impress them with including the CC standards you teach. Take the time to distribute a written copy of I-SAIL to your building and/or district Curriculum Coordinator. Make sure you hand deliver it and point out how you will be using it throughout the year.

Finally, keep in mind that I-SAIL can be a powerful tool when designing your own library's strategic plan. Are you a part of a curriculum mapping team--use I-SAIL! Take advantage of this document whenever you can and share your ideas and successes. Keep "sailing."