The Northern Illinois Regional P-20 Network implements large-scale strategies and tracking systems to help meet the 60 x 2025 goal through regional collaboration. More than 90 representatives from NIU, community colleges, high schools and seven state agencies participate in work groups that conduct joint research, establish baseline data, organize innovative pilot projects and faculty dialogues, and prepare policy papers on college and career readiness issues. The P-20 Network is based at Northern Illinois University.
Northern Illinois P-20 Network
PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

Postsecondary Institutions
- Northern Illinois University
- College of DuPage
- College of Lake County
- Elgin Community College
- Harper College
- Highland Community College
- Illinois Valley Community College
- Kishwaukee College
- McHenry County College
- Rock Valley College
- Sauk Valley Community College
- University Center of Lake County
- Waubonsee Community College

School Districts
- Barrington School District 220
- DeKalb School District 428
- DuPage Regional Office of Education
- Elgin School District U-46
- Freeport School District 145
- Highland area Regional Office of Education
- Hinckley-Big Rock School District 429
- Huntley School District 158
- Kaneland School District 302
- Naperville School District 203
- Regional Office of Education
- River Bend School District 2
- Rochelle High School District 212
- Rock Falls High School District 301
- Rockford School District 205
- Seneca High School District 160
- Sterling Public Schools 5
- Township High School District 211
- Township High School District 214
- West Aurora School District 129

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

Education Organizations
- 4-C
- Advance Illinois
- Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools
- Illinois Business Roundtable
- Illinois P-20 Council
- Illinois Workforce Investment Board
- Northwest Educational Council for Student Success
- Voices for Illinois Children
**Articulation and Adult Learners**

**Goal** Create seamless transitions across the education continuum from cradles to careers.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete draft of IAI policy paper and discuss recommendations</td>
<td>In Progress A policy paper for improving the effectiveness of the Illinois Articulation Initiative is under development.</td>
<td>Develop a proposal for support of the IAI to make improvements towards accessibility and transparency and to expand the use of competencies by each panel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborate with the regional ePortfolio consortium (IREP) to develop a consistent, regional process for eportfolios that works across levels and incorporates documentation of learning done outside of an academic setting.</td>
<td>In Progress A career planning and online learning seminar is being implemented in Fall 2016 to assist adult learners in the construction and use of eportfolios</td>
<td>Deliver the course and collect feedback on its impact on these students and the utility of the eportfolios.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Launch the IPLAA to implement PLA at individual institutions and permit transfer of prior learning credits across the alliance.</td>
<td>Complete A survey of existing prior learning assessment opportunities at P-20 Network community colleges was completed.</td>
<td>Develop plans to ensure that adult learners receive credit for demonstrated prior learning by 2020 both locally and between institutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organize regional study of PARCC results and make recommendations for use in placement.</td>
<td>Complete ISBE discontinued PARCC for high school accountability and replaced it with SAT. A review of high school testing issues was completed and posted.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
### Alignment of Standards for Advancing Student Opportunities

**Goal** 100% of students graduate from high school with 9-12 college credits and/or a professional certificate.

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<td>Collect, analyze, and share data on high school graduates who present college credit at postsecondary registration and students who qualify for developmental education in math and language arts.</td>
<td><strong>Completed</strong> Metrics were identified for tracking progress toward 100% of students graduating from high school with 9-12 college credits and/or a professional certificate.</td>
<td>Create dashboard for documenting progress toward P-20 Network goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present proposal for course creation teams to the HR 477 committee for scaling of 12th grade catch-up courses.</td>
<td><strong>Completed</strong> HB 5729 included strategies for institutions to voluntarily adopt for local implementation of 12th grade catch-up courses and to otherwise decrease the need for college remediation. <strong>Completed</strong> Developmental education scan of the region conducted with 100% participation by P-20 Network community colleges.</td>
<td>Develop action plans to reduce enrollments in remedial coursework. Participate in the Post-secondary and Workforce Readiness Act committees to develop transitional math courses and launch development of other transitional courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assess highest priority needs for dual credit courses and instructors as a basis for creating accelerated coursework to train dual credit instructors.</td>
<td><strong>Completed</strong> State data proved to be inaccurate and thus not a fair representation of early college credit opportunities for high school students across northern Illinois. The 2016 Illinois Report Card will include early college credit data. <strong>Completed</strong> A survey of early college credit programs currently in place at P-20 Network community colleges was conducted. <strong>Completed</strong> Data collected showed that 6025 high school seniors were ready for college coursework in English and 8239 high school seniors were ready for college coursework in math, a far greater number than opportunities to earn early college credit. In Progress The state agencies are working with universities to increase programs for dual credit instructors.</td>
<td>Develop action plans to expand early college credit opportunities for high school students.</td>
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## Student Support Services

**Goal** Coordinate student support systems across institutions to ease transitions and increase success.

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<td>Strengthen data sharing and use across institutions in coordination with the Illinois Longitudinal Data System.</td>
<td><strong>On Hold</strong> Consulted with ILDS representative about community college feedback reports and identified additional needs, especially for longitudinal data.</td>
<td>Review ILDS reports populated with data when they are available (tentative – late fall 2016).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Determine most meaningful ways to support and maintain an ongoing connection among professionals who support peer mentoring programs to meet the White House goal of training and supporting 80 student mentors for 400 at-risk students. | **Completed** A regional survey on peer mentoring programs  
**In Progress** Planning for the 2016 Regional Peer Mentoring Conference is underway for September 23 | Continue planning for and host the regional peer mentoring conference. |
| Increase FAFSA completion rates for students in northern Illinois. | **Completed** Shared information provided by ISAC about the FAFSA programs and services delivered at 162 high schools and the actual rate of FAFSA completion for northern Illinois high school students  
**Completed** A comparison of FAFSA completion rates and college going rates for northern Illinois high schools  
**Completed** A guide for communities to support cultivating a focus on college and career readiness that includes schools, community colleges, nonprofit, governmental, and business leaders | Develop plan to increase the FAFSA completion rate by high school students in the region.  
Develop and execute plans for implementing the guide in locations across the region. |
## Birth to 3rd Grade (B-3) Initiatives

### Goal
Collaborate with ongoing activities at state and regional levels that improve preparation of children from birth to grade 3 for success in school, family, and community life and to design initiatives that address unmet needs identified through research.

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<td>Collect a regional inventory of programs and services, building on existing inventories.</td>
<td><strong>Completed</strong> Scanned existing inventory systems and processes. Commissioned a feasibility study on expanding 211 services across northern Illinois, including a communications campaign to encourage awareness and use through consistent messaging.</td>
<td>Report results of the feasibility study on expanding 211 services and make recommendations for next steps. Research additional efforts to build community referral systems, including those provided by AOK networks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct data analysis and research in areas recommended by work group as a first step to identifying gaps and building bridges.</td>
<td><strong>Completed</strong> Review of the ILDS and Early Childhood Data Dashboards <strong>Completed</strong> Review Community Systems Development efforts throughout the region. <strong>Completed</strong> Research the role of higher education credentials in preparing qualified teachers and assistants as needed for Gold Ratings.</td>
<td>Create and deliver professional development once the dashboard is launched this fall. Provide support for connecting higher education to local early childhood community systems. Connect with IBHE research study on higher education pathways in early childhood certifications and make recommendations for network action as needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide ongoing opportunities for networking and professional development of B-3 providers.</td>
<td><strong>Completed</strong> BLOCK Fest® exhibit was purchased. Three events have been hosted in partnership with regional organizations. Monthly events are now scheduled across the region. <strong>Completed</strong> White paper recommending changes to state policy and delivering professional development on Early Childhood Absenteeism.</td>
<td>Host BLOCK Fest® events and provide support materials for families to continue playing and learning with non-interlocking blocks at home. Create a communications plan for emphasizing the urgency of Early Childhood Absenteeism and access funding to create and deliver the professional development.</td>
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**Workforce Development Team**

**Goal** Coordinate the Regional P-20 Network’s workforce development activities with local, state, and national initiatives in order to more closely align academic offerings and student preparation with workplace needs.

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<td>Inventory existing training and tools around workforce data, analyze for gaps, and develop strategies for helping educators use available data to improve alignment with workforce needs.</td>
<td><strong>In Progress</strong> Research influences on career decision-making and whether these vary by different populations based on race/ethnicity, income, disability, language, and other factors.</td>
<td>Complete research on influences in career decision-making and make recommendations based on the results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Completed</strong> Created discussion guide on Important Steps in Aligning Education with Local Workforce Demand.</td>
<td>Develop local plans to align career pathways to local workforce needs for high school graduates by 2020 Finalize discussion guide and create Self Study Tool on Important Steps in Aligning Education with Local Workforce Demand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitor legislative proposals for career pathways endorsements on high school diplomas</td>
<td><strong>Completed</strong> Connected with Education Systems Center on best practices in work-based learning programs and other initiatives from Postsecondary Workforce Readiness (PWR) Act.</td>
<td>Collect models of best practice and create one-page information summaries Support the planning and implementation for PWR Act including transitional math programs, career endorsements on diplomas, competency-based education and career development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue development and testing of student-centered pathways documents tied to regional needs.</td>
<td><strong>Completed</strong> Focus groups with middle school and high school students, teachers and counselors were conducted.</td>
<td>Create a template for use by network partners in creating their local pathways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crosswalk metrics, benchmarks, and reporting requirements for WIOA, 60 x 25 Network Illinois Pathways initiatives, and other relevant initiatives.</td>
<td><strong>On Hold</strong> Local plans have not been approved and federal metrics have not been finalized.</td>
<td>Maintain a close connection to state WIOA work, especially the approval of the local plans and finalizing the metrics.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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