

Promote Excellence in Science Teaching and Learning in Illinois

Critical Success Category: ADVOCACY—*promoting scientific literacy and the profession of science education*

Goal 1: *ISTA will actively emphasize its advocacy for stronger science education at the state, regional, county, district and building levels.*

Objective: 1.1: ISTA will be recognized as the research-based advocate and access point for science education policies, positions and resources that substantiate higher quality classroom science teaching and learning in Illinois.		
1.1.1 Disseminate appropriate ISTA and NSTA position statements for immediate availability and applicability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop survey mechanism, including web ability (Survey Monkey, etc.) with proposal for frequency, purposes, liability issues, etc. • Develop survey questions for initial and ensuing periodic questions • Develop process to analyze and review answers for next action steps 	President to appoint ad hoc E-communications committee for infrastructural web-based management, needs assessment, design, analysis and recommendations for action process and possible standing committee utility. (see 2.1, 3.2 and 4 also)
1.1.2 Disseminate applicable research findings associated with effective science teaching and learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search research base for web linkages • Consider discussion board option • Share with principals and BAP 	
1.1.3 Explore publications transition/expansion to electronic capabilities, including transition to e-display of organizational archival materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore publications trends, costs, techno-possibilities for high-quality journal and timely news announcements 	
Objective 1.2: ISTA will support strengthened certification and endorsement processes and policies for teaching science.		
1.2.1 Establish elementary mathematics and science specialist endorsement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with ICTM and IMSP university projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President to appoint ad hoc committee
1.2.1.1 Expand pre-engineering descriptors and indicators for science teacher preparation and implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with TEAI, CTE-ISBE, University Council, IMSP university projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President to appoint ad hoc committee
Objective 1.3: ISTA will represent teaching and teachers of science at diverse local, regional and state settings and opportunities.		
1.3.1 Represent ISTA through ISBE opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access ISBE calendar and ask for volunteers to attend meetings • Pursue ISTA financial support for incurred costs to teacher and local district, as possible • Pursue diverse opportunities, such as Sustainable Schools Symposium, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calendar with sign-up dates • Pursue \$\$ with finance committee
1.3.2 Represent ISTA through other state/regional/local -level agency, organizational, and administrative opportunities.		

Critical Success Category: ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP for organizational sustainability and development

Goal 2: ISTA will actively work to recruit, retain, and nurture our membership, boasting an increase of 300 new members in the next three years.

Objective 2.1: The ISTA Board will refine and continuously review and improve its abilities to serve membership more efficiently and effectively.		
2.1.1 Reconfigure current database for immediate Event Register transition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify current and projected fields that are needed (add NBPTS-cert completers and intenders; merge with current listing of state public/private schools listing) Set schedule for periodic review and refinements Determine capability for Board needs and access for membership database Consider how vendor, BAP, etc. databases can be merged or coordinated Establish webmaster responsibilities for immediate contract authorization Establish mechanism for regular review and refinement of ISTA website and links Consider applicable open and closed access (calendar, membership, etc.) Correct and expand list serve capabilities for membership benefit Regional director communications with members annually for personal/professional updates to membership database. 	President to appoint ad hoc E-communications committee (see 2.1, 3.2 and 4 also)
2.1.2 Establish credit card functionality.		Regional directors
2.1.3 Expand electronic communications capabilities for effective, ongoing networking for ISTA.		
Objective 2.2: ISTA will focus immediate and ongoing attention to effective and beneficial retention of its current membership through extension of greater opportunities and support for science education leaders.		
2.2.1 Identify and regularly address and refine rewards, opportunities, and responsibilities for ISTA membership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update and distribute renewal form (for electronic displays, brochures, announcements, distribution mechanisms/options, etc.) Identify and regularly address and refine rewards, opportunities and responsibilities for ISTA membership Develop criteria, process and begin annual updates for Milestone Recognition for current members Determine mechanism to address re-recruitment of lapsed members (identification, talking points, assignments, etc.) Develop organizational and logistical (database) structure to identify and contact retired members (prior to retirement) with possible perks, responsibilities, opportunities for retired members 	Membership committee, led by Chair (K. Carroll) to prioritize action options for detailed steps for board consideration and delegation of responsibilities (see 2.3 also)
2.2.2 Develop criteria, process and begin annual updates for Milestone Recognition for current members.		
2.2.3 Determine mechanisms to address re-recruitment of lapsed members.		
2.2.4 Develop structures to identify and contact retired members (prior to retirement) with possible perks, responsibilities, opportunities.		
Objective 2.3: ISTA will focus immediate and ongoing attention to recruiting new members for engaged membership.		
2.3.1 Explore possibilities of dual membership/collaborations with organizations with similar missions and goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore possibilities of dual membership with ISELA, EEAI, IABT, IACT, IAAPT, CTE organizations, ICE, etc. using Fermi Friends model: Explore collaboration opportunity NCLI opportunity with ISBE, Chicago Wilderness/EEAI 	Officers to organize process, timeline, priorities and assign organizations (See 4.4) by May 2 meeting.

<p>2.3.2 Determine mechanisms to encourage current members to recruit new members</p> <p>2.3.3 Pursue building membership options.</p> <p>2.3.4 Encourage membership of new teachers of science</p> <p>2.3.5 Encourage establishment of college/university NSTA/ISTA affiliate programs for pre-service teachers of science.</p> <p>2.3.6 Establish and support network of teacher-educators for science.</p> <p>2.3.7 Establish and support network of master teachers (supervising student teachers).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish referral credit policy with modifications on membership form, adding referral line for tracking • Pursue building membership options with IL Principal’s Association • Develop initial certificate holders discount for board approval _____ • Pursue replication of NSTA New Science Teacher Academy in Illinois • Pursue building networks of teacher/educators and master teachers to become ISTA assets (see 4.2) • Pursue funding to support additional NSTA-ISTA student affiliate organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue options for mentoring/induction collaboration with ISBE 	<p>Membership committee, led by Chair, see 2.2</p> <p>President to appoint ad hoc committee to explore network- building capabilities for new teachers, teachers-to-be, and their teachers/supervisors; Research identification, interests, options to create, support these networks separately and collectively.</p> <p>President to explore possibility</p>
<p>Objective 2.4: ISTA will establish a broadened and unique network of Illinois-Building a Presence.</p>		
<p>2.4.1 Explore current and innovative BAP network options to expand Illinois BAP program within ISTA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project mechanisms to recruit POC/KL to ISTA membership; financial impact; definition of responsibilities to/from NSTA and local districts/buildings 	<p>President to appoint ad hoc committee to merge BAP into ISTA membership with service responsibilities and membership renewal benefits</p>

Critical Success Category: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Goal 3: *ISTA will expand its capabilities to broker high quality, research-based, short- and longer-term professional opportunities that will expand both the science content and pedagogical content knowledge of our membership.*

Objective 3.1: ISTA will conduct its annual conferences, expanding and evaluating its offerings and support continuously to meet the needs of our membership more effectively.		
3.1.1 Establish a Conference Protocol document for generalized conference planning, refined to reflect new electronic ISTA capabilities and post to web site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Conference Protocol (CP) document for generalized conference planning, refined to reflect new electronic ISTA capabilities and post to web Apply CP for current year conference Apply CP for next year's conference Apply CP for future conferences two or more years out 	Conf chair
3.1.2 Apply Conference Protocol document for current year and future years' conferences.		
Objective 3.2: ISTA will respond to identified professional development needs as expressed by our membership, our partners, and emerging national, state, and regional circumstances.		
3.2.1 Survey membership regularly regarding interest and viable opportunities for professional development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey membership regarding interest and viable opportunities for professional development (see Objective 1.1, 2.1 and Goal 4 to consolidate research for process) Develop survey regarding interest and viable opportunities for conference professional development Develop mechanism to announce and distribute statewide and through ISTA regions (immediate and periodic) Conduct needs and resources survey Collect data electronically and analyze data Pursue mechanisms to offer, announce, and support these opportunities 	President to appoint ad hoc E-communications committee (see 1.1, 2.1, and 4 also)
3.2.2 Survey ISTA partners regularly to determine pertinent available and proposed professional development opportunities for teachers of science.		
3.2.3 Provide updates on emerging national, state, and regional events, mandates, policies, etc. that teachers of science need to understand and implement.		
Objective 3.3: ISTA will encourage and support professional development opportunities and leadership development networks organized by ISTA directors and officers.		
3.3.1 Regional directors and officers will host planning meetings of ISTA members/leaders of region for needs identification and action steps to be completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop generalized framework for meetings, including logistics, activity planning and evaluation measures and CPDU /college credits Submit financial and programmatic report to Treasurer and Executive Director To be coordinated with Year of Science Activities, identified partners, and region-specific potential partners: see Goal 4 _____ Meet with potential partners to initiate a partnership (State Library, School Librarians Assoc., IRC) Roll out p'ship support through ISTA regions Explore online book study club options for membership Use of Ready, Set Science! Consideration of America's Lab Report Work with IPA, NSTA, etc. Roll out p'ship support through ISTA regions _____ Meet with potential partners (IL Arts Council) to initiate a partnership; Design and publicize; Roll out p'ship opportunities, through ISTA regions (with Regional Arts Council contacts) 	
3.3.2 Regional directors and officers will publicize, assist planning, and host/co-host professional development opportunity(ies) annually in their regions or within their networks, with coordination through Year of Science and beyond.		
3.3.3 Establish framework options for ISTA Sciency Book Clubs with website guidance and ideas for networking among teachers.		
3.3.4 Establish framework for virtual and personal study groups for professional book studies.		
3.3.5 Establish framework options for integrating the arts and sciences, such as "Intriguing Science with Intriguing Photography" project		

Critical Success Category: Partnerships

Goal: 4 *ISTA will create and sustain collaborative partnerships with diverse groups who share our mission. (post ISTA Partnership definition and non-endorsement policy on web)*

Objective 4.1: Establish and maintain partnerships with state and regional agencies, businesses, industries and foundations which are associated with science teaching and learning and the science career pipeline for our students.			
4.1.1	Develop collaborative relationships for consideration and action with ISBE, Regional Offices of Education, Intermediate Service Centers, Regional Service Providers, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create databases for contacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ISBE, ROE/ISC, ReSPros ○ DNR, IEPA, AISWCD, etc • Develop working relationships with specific goals and actions • Offer collegial networking for mutual benefit, etc. • Roll out p'ship support through ISTA regions 	President to appoint ad hoc committee
4.1.2	Develop collaborative relationships for consideration and action with IDNR, IEPA, IDCEO, AIWSCD, Office of the Governor/Lt. Governor, Illinois Business Roundtable, Illinois Manufacturers Association, Illinois Society of Association Executives, etc.		
Objective 4.2: Establish and maintain partnerships that provide post-secondary educational opportunities with Illinois community colleges, colleges, universities, etc.			
4.2.1	Initiate partnerships with post-secondary partners to further emerging state networks of teacher-educators, master teachers and student -affiliate organizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create database listing of potential partners with necessary information; seek recommendations • Electronic introduction and personal phone call follow –up • Meet to make partnership official with specific plans for action • Organize events locally, with regional options, as possible; pursue ISTA member attendance invitations for symposia, tours, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistics with ISTA assistance, as appropriate • Registration process necessities • Evaluation with ISTA template • Publicize partnership opportunity (website, letters to schools) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create template • distribute appropriately • arrange for publicity during event • Begin planning for future partnership efforts • Invite to 09 conference in Peoria 	President to appoint ad hoc committee
Objective 4.3: Establish and maintain partnerships with non-formal science educators (museums, parks, etc)			
4.3.1	Initiate partnerships with non-formal science education leaders from Illinois nature centers, zoos, gardens, museums, planetariums, etc.	See steps listed in 4.2	President to appoint ad hoc committee
Objective 4.4: Establish and maintain partnerships with state professional organizations (ISELA, IABT, IACT, IAPT, IPA, etc.)			
4.4.1	Explore partnerships possibilities, such as consideration of dual membership, joint conference planning/participation, exhibit booths, news/updates, mutual benefits/shared resources, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explore partnerships possibilities with ISELA, IABT, IACT, IAAPT, CTE organizations, IPA, etc. • Consideration of dual membership • August 09Consideration of joint conference planning/participation, exhibit booths, news/updates etc. • Consider mutual benefits/shared resources (IPA) 	Identify current dual members, officer connections; to be pursued by Ex. Dir, President, Membership chr/com