



Illinois Art
Education
Association

Dear Illinois Art, Design, and Media Education Community,

As schools form their back-to-school plans in accordance with ISBE's statewide guidance, the IAEA would like to share our recommendations and programming for the beginning of the year to support your unique teaching contexts.

We know updates regarding the school year will be ongoing and acknowledge the situation is different from district to district. As you plan for the 20-21 school year, we encourage you to reference the [ISBE guidelines](#) that best apply to working in an art classroom / with art materials (please reference Shared Objects, p.36). Ideally, schools should:

- Provide individual materials for students.
- Implement consistent cleaning practices and provide additional time, resources and personnel for cleaning shared materials.
- Adjust classroom spaces for recommended social distancing.
- Provide equitable in-person and remote instruction for art, design, and media courses.

The IAEA is supporting its members with PD opportunities to help prepare for online, hybrid, and in-person courses. We've just re-released [two helpful webinars](#) on remote learning and SEL, and look for upcoming webinars and virtual discussions to share best practices with colleagues. ISBE's recommendations include support for professional development, and we encourage you to take advantage of IAEA's offerings to nurture your continued professional growth.

If you find that your school or district is not meeting these recommended benchmarks, the first thing you can do is connect with your school administration to discuss ways that art, design, and media can be more supported. [Sharing research, best practices, and teaching methods](#) will communicate with your school's leadership your ability to be a leader and partner. By working with them and offering a clear direction in your schools, you continually reinforce that you are an expert and professional in your field. Invite parent booster groups and /or parents that you know support arts education to reach out to administrators. The art, design, media experiences will be more critical than ever for students' social-emotional wellness. For more resources on how to advocate for your students and your profession, please reference the [IAEA's position statements](#), [advocacy tools/tactics](#), and [examples](#) of how to advocate.

The art, design, and media education world are made up of amazingly creative people. Working together, we will bring our students the best school year possible. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to us at any time.

Sincerely,

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