



New Illinois Salary-Advancement Rules

Public Act 104-0795 sets new conditions on the graduate-level continuing education credit that Illinois districts may count toward salary advancement. Here's a look at what the law asks for and how a TCL course is actually built.

Where TCL Coursework Stands

1

Advanced degree-eligible graduate credit

Every TCL graduate course is built to graduate-level standards and reviewed by our university partners, so the graduate credit is degree-eligible from the start.

2

Issued through an accredited university

The graduate credits are issued by one of our regionally accredited university partners.

3

Documented on an official university transcript

Once a course is completed, the graduate credits are documented on an official university transcript.

4

A qualified, experienced instructor of record

Every TCL course has an instructor of record with a master's degree or higher and at least five years of classroom experience.

5

Real instructor feedback

Instructors review each participant's coursework and send back individualized written feedback tied to the course objectives, rather than a generic completion note.

University Partners

Please visit <https://www.connectinglink.com/illinois> to view a list of compliant university partners. Degree-eligibility letters will be available to download.

Beyond the Checklist

Outcomes districts can see

Participants can put the tools and skills they learn to use in their classroom right away.

Fits an actual teaching schedule

Self-paced courses start anytime and run up to 12 weeks; interactive classes follow a set schedule.

Expanding academic partnerships

TCL is partnering with more regionally accredited universities, giving participants accreditation options.

Participants are responsible for confirming approval with their school or district before enrolling, including verifying that the issuing university partner meets their district's requirements for salary advancement or continuing education credit. The Connecting Link does not guarantee credit will be accepted for salary advancement purposes; eligibility is determined solely by the participant's district.