

Illinois State Board of Education

Special Meeting

Fourth Floor Board Room
100 North First Street, Springfield, Illinois
Wednesday, July 27, 2005
10:30 a.m.

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Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Public Participation
3. Approval of cut scores for the new School Psychologist, School Nurse, School Social Worker, and School Counselor tests
4. Motion for Adjournment

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
July 27, 2005

TO: Illinois State Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Randy J. Dunn, State Superintendent of Education (Interim)

Agenda Topic: Approval of cut scores for the *new* School Psychologist, School Nurse, School Social Worker, and School Counselor tests.

Materials: Memo from John Silvestro at National Evaluation Systems (NES) and a summary of panel-based passing score recommendations.

Staff Contact(s): Dennis Williams, Division Administrator, Certification and Professional Development and Linda Jamali, Supervisor, Certification and Professional Development

Purpose of Agenda Item

To establish the cut scores for the following four tests: School Psychologist, School Nurse, School Social Worker, and School Counselor.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item

The expected outcome is to approve the panel's recommendations for passing cut scores on the four tests or arrive at a different cut score.

Background Information

There were four new tests administered to School Service Personnel on June 25, 2005. Scores for the candidates have been delayed pending State Certification Board and State Board approval of the cut scores. Certification has received many calls concerning the effect this delay will have on pending employment offers. By setting the cut score at this meeting, NES will be able to process the test score reports by August 10 and those affected will have their results before the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year.

Analysis and Implications for Policy, Budget, Legislative Action and Communications

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications at this time, however, the Certification Division will work with NES to examine modifications with the testing schedule to make certain we are not in this situation again next year with the Special Education test.

Budget Implications
None

Legislative Action
None

Communication
We will communicate this information to those affected by the delay and with higher education institutions, who routinely watch for test results. We will also put this information on our website.

Pros and Cons of Various Actions

By arriving at the cut scores for these tests at the July 27 meeting, the ISBE will allow those who took the affected tests on June 25 to receive their test scores prior to the start of the school year.

Superintendent's Recommendation

I recommend that the following motion be adopted:

Consistent with the recommendations of the State Teacher Certification Board and the Bias Review Committee, I move that the Illinois State Board of Education hereby adopt the outlined passing scores for the School Service Personnel tests in the Illinois Certification Testing System. Further, I move that the passing score and pass rates be revisited after one year of administration and if warranted, adjustments be recommended to the Illinois State Board of Education for approval.

Next Steps

The Certification Division will communicate this information with the affected individuals and institutions.