BOARD PRIORITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
APRIL 2001

STANDARDS, ASSESSMENT, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Goal: Increase the percentage of schools in Levels 3-5 (DeStefano 5-point implementation scale) to 75% by the end of FY 2003.

1. Coordination of efforts within the Education Center to demonstrate the connections of Standards Implementation
2. Successfully Completed ISAT Testing for approximately 650,000 across 5 grades in 7 subjects
3. Completed all taping for the Interactive CD project demonstrating ISAT rubric connections to Learning Standards
4. TIMSS data analyses completed for report to Superintendent
5. Materials for PSAE complete and sent to schools -- Working to accommodate all requests: only 43 waivers for hours and instructional time changes and 127 for site changes out of 504 districts that have high schools
6. 9 additional Quality Assurance Visits have been completed; 6 Non-public school approval visits completed
7. Completed Report Card update for the Board
8. Standards Aligned Classroom Project Fair-- demonstrating the progress of the Statewide Professional Development System of ROE/ISCs
9. As of April 1, there were a total of 256,523 hits on the Sample Test site since January 1.

SYSTEM OF SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

Goal: Intervene with districts and schools that are in Academic Difficulty so that all students meet or exceed Illinois Academic Learning Standards.

1. Developed a prototype for a System of Support intervention map/website for internal tracking of support and progress in 88 eligible districts.
2. Negotiating performance agreement with 11 districts (including CPS).
3. Redefining Quality Assurance to focus on schools eligible for the system of support in accordance with rules and regulations
4. Providing support to 23 additional districts that are submitting REA proposals (applications are due May 31 and awards will be announced in June)
5. Issued REA external evaluation RFSP.
6. Working with district to allocate the equivalent of 10% of their Title I allocation to professional development.
7. Preparing approximately 150 professional development providers, 225 site coordinators and 3000 teachers to provide the Summer Bridge program in 118 districts.
8. Submitted the East St. Louis 189 comprehensive audit.
9. Facilitated the Pembroke 259 district strategic plan based on last year’s audit.
10. Presented to ROE/ISCs on new system of support
MATHEMATICS

**Goal:** A significant annual increase in the percentage of students in grades 3, 5, 8, and high school will meet or exceed state standards in mathematics so that by 2005, 80% of all students will meet and exceed state standards in mathematics.

1. Received over 120 applications for the first Mathematics and Science Curriculum Showcase in Bloomington on June 14 and 15
2. Registered over 25 administrators for the pilot of the Illinois Mathematics Administrator Academy entitled “Beyond Arithmetic"
3. Since January 1, 2001, the M2T2 Web site has had 98,128 hits. This represents 3,043 "user sessions"
4. Conducted V-tel conference with 20 teachers from around the state involved in the CORD online algebra staff development to clarify the role algebra plays in the classroom, the Illinois Learning Standards, and the ISAT/PSAE
5. Issued contract for the development of a parent handbook to be distributed statewide during next school year
6. Surveyed all ROE/ISC for additional mathematics trainings of M2T2 and Math on Monday to be offered this fiscal year to accommodate high interest
7. The Teachers Certification Board approved a program for alternative certification of mathematics and science teachers at the University of Illinois at Chicago
8. Finalized vision statement and goals for the Illinois Mathematics Task Force scheduled to meet again April 30 to begin action planning of coordinated activities needed to accomplish these goals
9. Hosted a collaboration with multiple post-secondary institutions to plan and schedule June meeting for those involved in mathematics teacher education in Illinois to discuss upcoming changes in programs needed to comply with new regulations regarding performance requirements and the identification of common core elements that need to be involved in mathematics teacher education
10. Increased ISBE visibility by presenting at the Illinois Section of the Mathematics Association of America Conference to 50 mathematicians about ISBE activities, presenting two sessions at Western Illinois University for their 50th Anniversary Conference to over 200 teachers, and attending the conferences for Association for State Supervisors of Mathematics, National Council for Supervisors of Mathematics, and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

READING

**Goal:** A significant annual increase in the percentage of students in grades 3, 5, 8, and 10 will meet or exceed state standards in reading so that by 2005, 80% of all students will meet and exceed state standards for reading.

1. The pilot version of the *Illinois Snapshots of Early Literacy* (ISEL) classroom reading inventory has been completed and is being provided for use in kindergarten and first grade Summer Bridges classrooms.
2. Over 500 elementary principals and reading teachers are attending Reading Days #4 in Rockford, Illinois.
3. We have begun videotaping in classrooms for the demonstration videotapes that will be included in the 2001 edition of the Reading Kits. Demonstration videotapes will be produced for each of the 3 Kits we will produce this year. They are: a third grade classroom teachers’ Kit, a bilingual/ESL resource Kit and an Early Reading Support Kit.

4. We have mailed out (and are receiving) 4000 surveys to principals to determine how many Kits we will need to produce in 2001.

5. Mailed 5500 letters to Illinois principals encouraging their participation in “Turn Off the TV Week”, April 23 – 29th, 2001 in collaboration with Governor George H. Ryan’s office.

6. We have identified the contractor who will design, produce and deliver the NEW statewide Meeting the Challenge training for grades 3 – 5. Training of trainers is scheduled for July, 2001 in Belleville, Illinois.

7. Participated in Mayor Daley’s Reading Roundtable (and provided copies of ISBE reading-related resources to the Mayor’s Office for distribution).

8. Staff are continuing to work with Mayor Daley’s office on the Orr High School and feeder school reading improvement project.

9. There have been over 472,000 hits on the Illinois Reads website since it was launched in late November, 2000.

10. Met with the newly nominated Assistant Secretary of Education for Elementary and Secondary Education to describe Illinois Reads and to make recommendations for the future of the Reading Excellence Act funding program.

11. Staff have made several invited presentations on the Illinois Reads Initiative:
   - to 1300 members of District #299’s Early Childhood professionals on the Illinois Reads Initiative.
   - to the Illinois Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators.
   - to the Chicago Expo for Today’s Black Woman.

12. Met with representatives from LAQA to design a videotape professional development series on standards-led classrooms and school.

PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION

Goal: Quality Educators.

1. The Illinois Administrators’ Academy Management System (IAAMS) database has been activated. Staff members are currently entering course names and descriptions. This long-awaited tracking system will be ready for public use in May.

2. The Certificate Renewal Tracking System (CERTS) is well under construction with a pilot scheduled for May. Several ROEs have volunteered to participate in the pilot test. This system will streamline the entire system and hopefully eliminate 90% of the paperwork. We are right on schedule on this project.

3. The RFSP for the Evaluation of the Certificate Renewal System is finished and a date of Wednesday, May 16 has been established for the mandatory Bidders’ Conference. Information has been shared with Teacher Certification Board.

4. Certificate Renewal Manuals were mailed to over 300 non-public schools in Cook County as a result of our meeting with the Coalition of Non-Public Schools in Chicago.

5. Developed legislative language regarding Governors State University and its operation of a non-approved school social worker program. The language intends to
protect students enrolled in this program. This was done at the Request of BHE and South Suburban Cook legislators.

6. Beginning March 15, we had 743 pending applications; we received 728 new applications, issued 2,437 certificates and 951 deficiency letters and ended the period with 667 pending applications.

7. Our March Bilingual Teacher Test administration was larger than normal. Approximately 170 examinees registered for testing on March 17. Approximately 90 of those took the Spanish test, 20 took the English test and the remainder took Mandarin, Cantonese, Polish and Urdu. The word is out that the tests may be more difficult and thus people who want the transitional bilingual certificate are hurrying to take the test.

8. We have established a new record number of examinees for the April 7 teacher certification tests. 10,714 examinees have registered for 13,767 tests, of which 6,881 are registered for Basic Skills. For comparison, we had 8,104 examinees taking 10,664 tests in January and 9,299 examinees taking 12,081 tests in April 2000. Title II accountability and information about the upcoming enhanced basic skills may be having an effect.

9. A training package is being modified to meet the needs of the Local Professional Development Advisory Committees (LPDACs) for Chicago (private schools). Scheduling of trainings must occur on Saturdays for some groups while others are requesting late afternoon after-school hours.

10. Completed staff reports to the State Teacher Certification Board supporting the following proposals –
   - Bradley University – new social science program proposal
   - Concordia University – new program proposal in the superintendency
   - Illinois State University – program proposal to combine multiple special education areas
   - Northern Illinois University – program proposal to develop an alternative route to teacher certification
   - University of Illinois at Chicago – program proposal to develop an alternative route to teacher certification (math/science)
   - University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign – new program proposal in Library Information Specialist (Media)

11. In ten days, the Division of Professional Preparation conducted ten statewide public forums on the draft school service personnel standards, the proposed standards for directors of special education, and the recommended structure and standards for middle-level education.

**EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVE BIRTH THROUGH EIGHT**

**Goal:** Build a system that enables all children to achieve Illinois Learning Standards by Grade Three.

1. Conducted Early Childhood Block Grant Bidders’ Conference web cast. Over 260 computers were connected for the April 4 teleconference, which will be available for viewing on the internet until May 4, the due date for proposals. The Web Cast included a discussion of Head Start/Child Care/Prekindergarten partnerships with Kathy Penak, Child Care and Head Start Manager, Region 5 Department of Human
Services, budget information from Kim Lewis (Fiscal and Disbursements), and programmatic information.

2. Conducted after-school professional development session for East St. Louis Prekindergarten, Head Start, Kindergarten staff and District administrators. Sixty persons attended the 3 ½ hour session that focused on assessment, curriculum, and Learning Standards.

3. Completed contract discussions with the University of Illinois for the Early Learning Web Site. The joint project of ISBE and Futures for Kids will be designed to provide information on early development and learning to those responsible for the care and education of young children, with a special focus on hard-to-reach parents and caregivers. The site will include general information on child development, parenting skills, positive discipline, and appropriate learning activities. In addition, there will be interactive sessions, off-line publications and activities, links to other high quality sites, and information specific to services available in Illinois. Implementation is scheduled for early fall.

4. Met with representatives from Early Learning Standards field test sites to discuss recommendations for additions to draft standards. Recommendations are currently being collected, and are undergoing a final review by ISBE staff and an advisory group. The finalized Early Learning Standards document is scheduled to be released at the beginning of the FY02 school year.

5. Continued work with NCEDL for the multi-state Prekindergarten study. Illinois data collection will be coordinated by NCEDL consortium member UCLA. All preliminary site-based data has been submitted, and data collectors are currently being sought in the East St. Louis and Chicago areas. Next steps include appointing an advisory group for the study, and the identification of the 40 Prekindergarten sites to be included in the study.

6. The study will focus on instructional practices in Prekindergarten and Kindergarten classes and various components of child outcomes.