ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 18, 2002

Agenda Topic: State/Federal Legislative Update

Materials: None

Staff Contact(s): Peter Leonis

Purpose of Agenda Item

To inform State Board members of current events related to the spring session of the Illinois General Assembly and related to Congress and the federal government.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item

Board members will increase their knowledge base for Board policy decisions.

Background Information

The current session of the Illinois General Assembly is highly influenced by both the serious projected budget deficits and the pending fall elections. As expected, the State Board’s education budget as well as the wide range of proposed education bills are important components of session debate. Governmental Affairs staff will update the Board on the most recent events.

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 continues to be the big education story out of Washington, D.C. The U.S. Department of Education is working diligently to generate rules and guidance documents for the states. At the same time, budget development cycles begin again, and the state’s D.C.–based contractors continue to work on behalf of selected projects for specific Illinois school districts.

Next Steps

The Board Legislative Committee will continue to work with Governmental Affairs staff to shape Board and agency positions on the stream of bills and amendments making their way through the legislative process. The Board, Superintendent and staff will continue to work with legislators and their staff to answer data requests with timely and accurate information, and to advocate for the best possible education budget for 2003.