**Agenda Topic:** Proposed Rules - Part 24 (Standards for All Illinois Teachers) and Part 25 (Certification)

**Materials:** Recommended Amendments and Emergency Amendments

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**Purpose of Agenda Item**

To present the proposed amendments for the Board’s initial review and secure authorization to distribute them for public comment; to secure the Board’s adoption of the emergency amendments to Part 25.

**Expected Outcome of Agenda Item**

A motion authorizing the staff to publish the proposed amendments in the Illinois Register to elicit public comment; adoption of the emergency amendments to Part 25.

**Background Information**

This agenda item includes an entirely new proposed Part 24, Standards for All Illinois Teachers. These rules include the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards as well as the language arts and technology standards for all teachers. The background on this new Part is as follows:

- The professional teaching standards are currently found in Section 25.15(a) of the rules for Certification. They are being deleted from that Section at this time and placed into Part 24, along with the knowledge and performance indicators that amplify them.

- At this time, we are also including proposed special education standards for all teachers. These are not stated as separate standards because they are intended to be an integral part of the Professional Teaching Standards. They are therefore presented as additional knowledge and performance indicators related to those standards.
• All the material in this Part has already been approved by both the State Teacher Certification Board and the State Board of Education (in standards format rather than as rules *per se*), with the exception of the special education standards for all teachers. Consequently that material is presented in boldface type so that you can identify it readily. These standards are largely the product of the work of “Panel A” and were originally recommended in October of 1999.

• As you know, the State Board is obligated to present to the Court-appointed Monitor and the parties to the *Corey H.* litigation by January 1, 2002, a proposal for revising certification requirements for regular education teachers with regard to special education. Initiation of rulemaking including the standards contained in Part 24 is the first step in the preparation of that proposal.

The second item attached is a set of proposed amendments to Part 25 (Certification). The largest portion of this material is devoted to the transition to the NCATE 2000 standards and procedures as the basis for institutional recognition, unit accreditation, and approval of programs that prepare professional educators.

Various other amendments to Part 25 have a variety of purposes. As mentioned above, Section 25.15 is being revised to refer the reader to the new location of the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards (and also the standards for administrators, which will be set forth in a new Part 29 to be initiated in the next two or three months). Other aspects of this rulemaking are outlined below.

• Section 25.620 (Student Teaching) is being revised to make it consistent with the NCATE 2000 standards.

• Section 25.710 (Definitions) is undergoing a technical revision consistent with the changes in the test of basic skills.

• Section 25.780 (Fees) is being revised to delete specific fee amounts in favor of simply noting the items for which fees will be charged and requiring that information about fees be widely available. This will help us avoid the necessity for amending this rule every time the testing contractor identifies a need to change one or more of the fees.

• Several additions to Section 25.805 (Requirements of the Plan) are being proposed to establish requirements for continuing professional development related to special education for regular education teachers. This is the second aspect of the proposal the State Board is required to develop under *Corey H.* (see above).

Finally, two sections of the rules for the Illinois Certification Testing System require emergency amendments because the first administration of the basic skills test in the new format is set for mid-September. These changes affect Section 25.725 (Applicability of Scores) and Section 25.760 (Passing Score).
Recommendation of the State Teacher Certification Board

All these rules were reviewed and discussed by the State Teacher Certification Board at its meeting on August 9 and 10 of this year. The STCB recommends them to the State Board with one addition to the material in Section 25.805, Requirements of the Plan.

Section 25.805 is part of the rules that describe the requirements for continuing professional development. Under Section 21-14 of the School Code, these requirements are to be developed jointly by the State Board and the STCB. We felt that the timelines associated with the Court-imposed deadline precluded our holding a preliminary meeting of the joint subcommittee that was set up last summer to deal with emerging issues regarding continuing professional development. This matter was therefore brought to the attention of the subcommittee members in preparation for the August meetings of both boards.

New material is being inserted into Section 25.805 to establish a threshold for regular education teachers to meet in terms of continuing professional development related to special education. This proposal results from several discussions with the Court Monitor, his staff, and the parties to the Corey H. litigation. The reaction of some members of the State Teacher Certification Board was similar to comments we heard during the public hearings on the “Transition Rules” that describe how the change will be made from the current special education certification structure to the new structure ordered by the Court. That is, it was suggested by STCB members that individuals who have already satisfied all the requirements of an approved plan before the present amendments take effect should be exempted from any additional requirements regarding special education. Some members also believed this exemption should extend to any individual whose plan has been approved by the responsible local professional development committee (LPDC) by that time.

Two motions were passed by the STCB to this effect. Depending upon the State Board’s instructions on August 23, language reflecting one or the other can be integrated into the text of the proposed rules before they are published in the Illinois Register.

The broader exemption recommended by the STCB would result in the following further change in subsection (f) of Section 25.805 (subsection (g) would also be revised in the same way):

f) Twenty-four continuing education units (“CEUs”; see Sections 25.865 and 25.870 of this Part) may be used to fulfill 100% of the requirement for continuing professional development, provided that:

1) at least half of such units are earned in activities relevant to the purposes described in subsections (b)(1) and (2) of this Section and, for an individual not serving as a special education teacher,

A) at least 10 percent of the units required are relevant to the State priority of special education and an identified portion of at least one activity addresses adapting and modifying
curriculum related to the Illinois Learning Standards (see Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1, Appendix D) to meet the needs of students with disabilities, except that

B) subsection (f)(1)(A) of this Section shall not apply to an individual during a certificate renewal cycle for which his or her plan for continuing professional development was approved by the responsible local professional development committee before September 1, 2001:

2) an identified portion of at least one activity addresses the purpose specified in subsection (b)(3) of this Section, unless the certificate-holder is not employed in or assigned to a school that is required to have a school improvement plan; and

3) any remaining units address the purpose specified in subsection (c) of this Section.

[The boldface type in the language shown above displays the suggested difference between the rule as printed in the Board packet and the rule recommended by the STCB. It would have the effect of exempting individuals whose plans were approved before September 1, 2001, regardless of how much activity they had completed as of that date.]

If incorporation of this change is not possible, the STCB recommends the following narrower change instead:

1) at least half of such units are earned in activities relevant to the purposes described in subsections (b)(1) and (2) of this Section and, for an individual not serving as a special education teacher,

A) at least 10 percent of the units required are relevant to the State priority of special education and an identified portion of at least one activity addresses adapting and modifying curriculum related to the Illinois Learning Standards (see Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1, Appendix D) to meet the needs of students with disabilities, except that

B) subsection (f)(1)(A) of this Section shall not apply to an individual during a certificate renewal cycle for which he or she has fulfilled all the requirements of his or her approved plan for continuing professional development before September 1, 2001:

[This language would have the effect of exempting only individuals who had completed all the required activities under approved plans before September 1, 2001.]
As a result of the comments we received this spring, the Transition Rules that we believe will soon be ordered for implementation by the Court do contain provisions that provide some relief to individuals who are already in the midst of their renewal cycles. The text of Section 25.807(d) on this subject is displayed at the end of this document for your ease of reference. During the discussion of this item, we will explore the similarities and differences between that rule, the suggestions shown above, and the Superintendent’s recommendation for a one-time exemption from this requirement for all teachers whose plans for continuing professional development are approved prior to November 1, 2002. The rationale for this recommendation is that all current teachers who have exchanged or will exchange their existing certificates for new standard certificates should be treated the same during the first renewal cycle.

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

The policy implications of these sets of rules mainly have to do with the move toward a standards-based system and have previously been discussed at length. There are no budgetary issues that require discussion, and the communications needed are discussed under “Next Steps” below.

Superintendent’s Recommendation

Adopt the emergency amendments for certification testing and direct the dissemination of proposed new Part 24 and the proposed amendments to Part 25 and for public comment.

Next Steps

With the Board’s authorization, staff will file the emergency amendments and submit the proposed amendments to the Administrative Code Division for publication in the Illinois Register to elicit public comment. In addition, the proposed amendments will be placed on the agency’s web site so that individuals may review them and submit comment on their content if they wish. Groups with a particular interest in portions of the subject matter will receive direct communications inviting their comments.

Text of Pending “Transition Rule” 25.807(d) for Special Education Teachers

d) An individual who was a special education teacher for purposes of this Subpart J before July 1, 2001, shall be subject to the provisions of this subsection (d).

1) If an individual has fulfilled the requirements of an approved plan prior to July 1, 2001, the requirement of subsection (b)(2) of this Section shall be reduced to 25 percent. Such an individual shall not be required to revise his or her plan for continuing professional development, even if such a revision would otherwise be needed in
order to encompass additional activities related to special education.

2) Other special education teachers whose standard certificates expire in 2004 or 2005 shall be subject to the requirements of subsection (b)(2) of this Section for only the second half of the current period of their certificates’ validity. That is, the requirement of subsection (b)(2) of this Section shall equal 25 percent unless further reduced pursuant to the provisions of Section 25.880 of this Part.