TO: Illinois State Board of Education
FROM: Robert E. Schiller, Superintendent
       Lynne Haeffele Curry, Director

Agenda Topic: State Legislative Status Report and 2002-03 Schedule

Staff Contact(s): Peter Leonis

Purpose of Agenda Item

Update the Board on recent and upcoming activities related to the state legislature.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item

- The Board will be informed of Governmental Affairs activities.
- The Board will consider policy implications of signed legislation from the 2002 legislative session.
- The Board will provide direction and feedback on proposed 2003 legislative agenda development schedule.

Background Information

The Governor has acted on all of the major education bills that were passed last session. There were no significant vetoes or amendatory vetoes of these bills.

Signed Legislation

The following is a brief summary of the more significant education related bills that were signed into law:

- **HB 5734** establishes the Round Lake Finance Authority. The bill also contains provisions that allow Chicago to levy a Capital Improvement Tax.
- **SB 1983** implements some provisions of the federal *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* by requiring selected schools to participate in the NAEP, requires more extensive notification to parents of Bilingual Students, and allows districts to post the school report card on the internet. The bill was further amended to include language that allows for increased payments for high poverty districts.
• SB 1777 allows for categorical certification of Special Ed teachers, in effect circumventing the federal “Corey H.” decision.
• HB 1436 addresses how teachers transition from an Initial to a Standard certificate and deals with certificate renewal for holders of Administrative Certificates. The bill offers several avenues to attain the Standard certificate including induction and mentoring, a masters level course, and/or CPDU’s.
• SB 1953 requires students to pass the Basic Skills Test prior to admittance in to teaching programs. The bill also requires that students pass their content area tests prior to student teaching.

Follow up issues from previous session:

• HJRCA 13 called for an elected State Superintendent of Education. While the amendment passed out of committee, no further action was taken; however, the Chairman of the House Education Committee promised to hold hearings this summer on this topic. To date, no hearings have been scheduled.
• The Superintendent’s Assessment and Accountability Task Force is being formulated and should begin work in the next few weeks.
• The PE workgroup, requested by Senator Sieben, is also being formulated and should be announced shortly.

Veto Session Issues:

• At this point, there have not been any significant vetoes of any education related legislation.
• The GA will be acting on the Fall Waiver Report. The deadline to submit waiver requests to ISBE was August 9, 2002.
• To date, no hearings have been scheduled on any topic.

Spring 2003 Schedule

The internal timetable for developing and reviewing ISBE legislative proposals has been established and forwarded to staff. This year’s timetable is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October 1, 2002</th>
<th>Deadline for submission of agency proposals to Governmental Affairs Division</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-October</td>
<td>Bill Review Team review of proposals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid to late October</td>
<td>Review/approval of proposals by Superintendent</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 20-21</td>
<td>Presentation of agency initiatives “FYI” to the State Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>December, 2002</td>
<td>Final preparation of language and stakeholder meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>January, 2003</td>
<td>Introduction in the General Assembly</td>
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Analysis and Implications for Policy, Budget, Legislative Action and Communication

Policy Implications

Some of the recently signed legislation from the Spring 2002 session has policy implications, especially the bill reinstating categorical special education certification. Staff will be able to report on any relevant federal court action related to this bill at the Board meeting on August 21, 2002. Other bills carry with them some implementation issues that staff are addressing on an ongoing basis.

The Superintendent and the Board will establish their priorities for state legislative action during the fall months of 2002. They will take into account the new federal mandates, and develop proposals that will complete the state’s alignment with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. In addition, as they do every year, the Board and the Superintendent will consider various proposals for technical improvements in some statutes and for streamlining the work of the state education agency and the burdens placed on school districts. Much of the Board’s work will be orchestrated through its Governmental Relations Committee.

Budget Implications

All legislative proposals will be coordinated with the budget development process.

Legislative Action

Proposals emanating from the fall 2002 development process will be brought forward for legislative action in the spring 2003 session.

Communication

Superintendent Schiller is in the process of meeting with legislators from all regions of the state.

Superintendent’s Recommendation

The Board’s Governmental Relations Committee and the State Board should establish legislative priorities in the coming months and work with the Superintendent and staff to develop legislative proposals to support the Board’s goals and the needs of school districts in Illinois.

Next Steps

Proceed with the development of agency’s 2003 legislative agenda.