ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
December 18-19, 2002

TO: Illinois State Board of Education

FROM: Robert E. Schiller, Superintendent
Lynne Haeffele Curry, Director

Agenda Topic: Action Item:
No Child Left Behind
Assessment and Accountability Task Force
State Assessment Recommendations

Materials: Motions adopted by Task Force December 10, 2002

Staff Contact(s): Gail Lieberman
Carmen Chapman Pfeiffer

Purpose of Agenda Item

To present the recommendations of the Assessment and Accountability Task Force regarding improvements to the state Assessments for Board approval.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item

The Board will adopt the Task Force recommendations.

Background Information

The state currently assesses student progress toward meeting the Illinois Learning Standards with the following tests:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>ISAT</th>
<th>PSAE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>2*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science***</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science****</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Title I schools with 2nd grade as the highest grade must give a standard assessment in reading and math.
**12th grades may voluntarily retake the PSAE
***ISAT Science tests include sampling items for Physical Development and Health
With the advent of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, (NCLB) states are required to test reading and writing at every grade 3 – 8. The Task Force, at the Superintendent’s request, was asked to consider not only these new requirements, but also suggest overall improvements to the state tests.

The Task Force has adopted several motions related to compliance with NCLB and overall improvements to the state testing system. The motions are attached to this item. They cover:

- the addition of the required grade levels and subjects;
- specifications for some aspects of the ISAT tests for 2005-06, including more rapid score returns;
- recommendations for several voluntary tests, costs to be borne by the state; and
- The continued tenure of the Task Force through at least July 2003, to act as a body of technical and policy advisors.

[Note: The Task Force recommendations regarding improvements to the Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA) are found in a separate item in this set of Board meeting materials. Recommendations regarding improvements to the IMAGE assessment are still pending.]

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

**Policy Implications**
The proposed modifications will bring Illinois into compliance with NCLB. They also outline a variety of improvements to address documented public concerns regarding the state tests.

**Budget Implications**
State and federal funding will be required to implement the recommendations. Cost projections will be available at the Board meeting.

**Legislative Action**
The Task Force recommendations, if fully implemented, would require statutory changes to establish the appropriate grade levels and subjects as well as to eliminate language that would no longer apply to the state tests.

**Communication**
The substance of these recommendations has been posted throughout most of November for public comments. The bulk of comments received were very positive. Future communication will include direct messages to districts and to the general public. Task Force members will communicate the changes to their constituent groups.
Superintendent’s Recommendation

The Board should adopt the Task Force recommendations regarding modifications to the state assessments.

Next Steps

Develop legislative language as needed and begin to construct contract RFSP.
Assessment & Accountability Task Force  
Motions adopted December 10, 2002

Motion #1
...that on or about July 2003, a contract will be awarded via RFSP to develop an enhanced ISAT (ISAT 2006) criterion-referenced test for reading, math, science, social science and writing based on the Illinois Learning Standards, and writing at grades 3, 4, 6, 8 and 10 (grade 10 on a voluntary basis).

Motion #2
This task force recommends to the State Board of Education adoption and implementation of the following chart (including its footnotes) by 2005-06.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>2*</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11*</th>
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<tr>
<td>Required</td>
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<td>Reading</td>
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<td>Social Science*****</td>
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<td>Voluntary/State Paid</td>
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<td>EXPLORE****</td>
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<td>PLAN****</td>
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<td>Writing</td>
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* In order to hold all schools accountable, school buildings which have second grade as their highest grade and are Title I funded must offer a standard assessment as required by the Illinois State Board of Education.

** The Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) is given at grades 11 in the noted subject areas. One component of the PSAE is the ACT; another is the Work Keys.

*** The writing assessment shall be sequenced at grades 3, 4, 6, 8, 10 (voluntary), and 11. Grade 3 students will write one expository essay; grade 4 students will write one essay in either the expository or persuasive mode; grades 6 and 8 students will write two essays in the expository, persuasive or narrative mode. Tenth grade students on a voluntary basis will write two essays in the expository, persuasive or narrative mode. Grade 11 students will write as part of the PSAE.

**** The EXPLORE and PLAN tests are preparatory tests for the ACT. Both are broad tests of student learning, and assess students in reading, English, mathematics and science. The EXPLORE Test is shown on the chart as voluntary at both grades 8 and 9. The intent is to allow school districts to decide which grade level would best fit the needs of their students. Some may choose to give the test at grade 8 for diagnostic purposes. Some may choose to give the test at grade 9 to fit into their high school program. The student should not take the same test in both grades 8 and 9. The PLAN would be given voluntarily at Grade 10 to prepare for the ACT. These tests would be offered for local choice, to be used on a voluntary basis and at no cost to districts.

*****The Fine Arts will continue to be included within the social science assessments; Physical Development and Health will continue to be included within the science assessment, both as done presently.

Motion #3
Tests noted are to be offered on a voluntary basis, at no cost to local districts (Explore, Plan and writing at 10th grade), effective 2003-04 if funds are appropriated.

**Motion #4**
The Assessment and Accountability Task Force members shall remain as technical/policy advisors from January 2003 through at least July 2003 so that the aforementioned motions and subsequent implementation will be reviewed by the task force prior to decision points.

**Motion #5**
The Task Force is not recommending changes in the PSAE at this time.

**Motion #6**
Clarify that all tests/scoring/reporting in the chart are state and federally funded, and not to be funded locally.