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

TO: Illinois State Board of Education
FROM: Robert E. Schiller, Superintendent
Christopher Koch, Director

Agenda Topic: Discussion Item: Universal Preschool Update
Materials: none
Staff Contact(s): Kay Henderson, Division Administrator

Purpose of Agenda Item
To provide an update on the status of Universal Preschool.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item
This item is informational.

Background Information
In June, 2001, Governor Ryan convened the Task Force on universal Access to Preschool. The report and recommendations from that group form the foundation for Illinois Preschool. The State Board of Education’s FY02 budget includes $5.2 million for the first year implementation of the program. Representatives from ISBE, DHS, Head Start and the Governor’s office have worked collaboratively in the development of an implementation plan for the first year. The State Superintendent attended the first meeting of the Illinois Preschool Council on December 11th. This agenda topic cover sheet is to serve as a placeholder for this item.

Analysis and Implications for Policy, Budget, Legislative Action and Communications
Policy Implications: Universal Preschool addresses the ISBE priority of closing the achievement gap by offering high quality preschool experiences to 3 and 4 year olds, preparing them for future success in school.

Budget Implications: Funds are already in ISBE’s budget, there is no request for additional funds.

Legislative Action: None
Communication: The Governor’s Office will oversee initial communication, ISBE would follow-up.
Pros and Cons of Various Actions

No action is required.

Superintendent’s Recommendation

None required at this time.

Next Steps

Discussion regarding next steps will take place following the December 11th meeting.