STANDARDS, ASSESSMENT, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

**Goal:** Increase the percentage of schools in Levels 3-5 (DeStefano 5-point implementation scale) to 75% by the end of FY 2003.

1. Convened a School Administrator Task Force to review the Designation System recommendations.
2. 20 more Quality Assurance Visits have been completed to date; 15 Non-public school approval visits completed.
3. Completed plans for the 16 PSAE Test Administration Workshops to be held Feb.26 -- March 9.
4. Completed Final draft of PSAE manuals and student, school and district reports.
6. Participated in the ACT State Conference focusing on the PSAE with representatives from higher education, local schools, and ACT.
7. Presented IMAGE and accommodated ISAT for LEP students to the Minnesota State Assessment Division.
8. Completed the first phase of the Research Portal.
9. Conducted the third and final Summer Bridges 2001 orientation session.
10. Sent additional information to the federal government for our State Title I application.
11. Staff continued work with Special Education on the Alternate Assessment for students with IEPs and 504 Plans.
12. Completed all of the Pilot Tests for ISAT.
13. Completed classroom assessments for 55 standards at 10 grade levels -- for a total of 550.
14. Participated in NAEP meeting with preliminary data on our testing population for the state sample.
15. Participated in national TIMSS meeting -- working with others in state on staff development.

SYSTEM OF SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

**Goal:** Intervene with districts and schools that are in Academic Difficulty so that all students meet or exceed Illinois Academic Learning Standards

1. Received federal grant award ($5.6 million) for Title I accountability.
2. Notified all districts with Title I School Improvement eligible schools (88 total).
3. Began assisting schools to select appropriate interventions.
4. 70 districts participated in Comprehensive School Reform orientation sessions.
5. 30 districts filed letter of intent to pursue CSR.
6. 16 districts participated in REA grant writing training.
   - In the process of notifying 72 additional REA-eligible districts of their eligibility and establishing training for them.
   - Requested additional funding from the Department of Education to support the newly-eligible districts.
   - 104 districts were notified that 161 schools will be involved in Quality Assurance visits next year based on the percentage of students not meeting standards.
   - Developing a support system for districts interested in extended learning opportunities.
   - Provided orientation to PSAE for the 5 Chicago Intervention High schools.
7. Completed East St. Louis District comprehensive educational audit.
8. Initiated comprehensive educational audits in Posen-Robbins, Rockford, St. Anne High School and Cahokia.

MATHEMATICS

**GOAL:** A significant annual increase in the percentage of students in grades 3, 5, 8, and high school will meet or exceed state standards in mathematics so that by 2005, 80% of all students will meet and exceed state standards mathematics.

1. Developed outline and major components of an Administrator Academy for recognizing and supporting best practices in mathematics using M2T2 materials.
2. Began discussions and planned meeting to design training for post-secondary personnel using M2T2 materials.
3. Invited key stakeholders to meeting March 2 to design infrastructure for Mathematics Initiative that maximizes efforts of all concerned and to design a brochure to be released at the time of the TIMSS-R data release in early April outlining those efforts.
4. Met with post-secondary personnel involved in mathematics education to design infrastructure for a Midwest Center for Teaching and Learning Mathematics which forms partnerships with major universities and ISBE.
5. Aided and attended news conference for Illinois Building a Presence program for mathematics and science teachers to establish a Point of Contact (POC) in every school and a Key Leader (KL) for every 25 schools.
6. Designed data base structure for on-line registration of mathematics Points of Contacts and Key Leaders – to date over 200 Points of Contact and 100 Key Leader nominations have been registered.
7. Met with IMSA and TAMS to discuss collaboration efforts with Mathematics Initiative and Scientific Literacy programs.
8. Met with all Scientific Literacy grantees whose proposals include a strong mathematics component to share existing programs and to discuss future related activities and brainstorm ways to increase number of mathematics proposals.
9. Met with ROE/ISC staff to design strategic plan to market and evaluate Mathematics Initiative and Scientific Literacy programs.
10. Reported to the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics Board current and future activities of the mathematics initiatives and to discuss future partnership activities.

11. Evaluated feedback of the PSAE performance definitions and planned meeting to discuss proposed changes and finalize definitions.

**READING**

**Goal:** A significant annual increase in the percentage of students in grades 3, 5, 8, and 10 will meet or exceed state standards in reading so that by 2005, 80% of all students will meet and exceed state standards for reading.

1. Hosted first Reading Kits 2001 meeting. Approximately 75 educators nominated from throughout Illinois attended this first planning meeting.

2. Over 350 elementary principals and reading specialists from Southern Illinois attended the third Illinois Reading Days in Belleville Illinois.

3. Approximately 60 local educators, ROE/ISC staff and ISBE staff attended the fourth trainer-of-trainers seminar on using the Grade-by-Grade Reading and Writing Standards as tools for local staff development presented by the Division.

4. Met with new ISBE webmaster to discuss how the ILLINOIS READS website might be improved. The Illinois Reads website has been visited over 155,000 times since it was launched just over 2 months ago.

5. Printing of the first in the Educators’ Reading Monograph series has been completed. Distribution plans call for the statewide dissemination of over 50,000 copies.

6. The Illinois Reads Division will provide its six-module Meeting the Challenge K – 2 professional development for all teachers, K – 3, who will teach Summer Bridges Summer School this coming Summer. All K – 3 educators in REA-funded schools will participate in the training.

7. Hosted a proposal-writing feedback session for districts writing REA grant proposals. Representatives from 11 of the 16 qualifying districts were in attendance.

8. Gave an invited presentation on the activities of the Illinois Reads initiative to the Early Childhood College Faculty steering committee.

**PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION**

**Goal:** Quality Educators

1. To date, a total of 720 presentations have been made across the state by staff with audiences numbering approximately 82,000 individuals by the Division of Certificate Renewal.
2. Over 32,000 telephone calls have been responded to so far by the Division of Certificate Renewal since it was created in November 1999.
3. A website discussion group has addressed 839 questions and posted responses about Certificate Renewal since July 2000, and approximately 86,000 people have visited the site to read posted information.
4. To date, have delivered 36 workshops to local Professional Development Committees since October 2000 when Manual was published.
5. Have distributed 150,000 copies of “Summary Guide to IL Teacher Certificate Renewal” and 100,000 copies of Q/A and Q/A 2 brochures.
6. To date, 1,356 provider applications have been approved. No backlog on system.
7. Have convened 6 meetings for Administrators’ Academy to discuss new standards and obtain agreement from stakeholders.
8. The Division of Professional Certification reviewed over 40,000 applications and handled more than 600,000 documents associated with applications in year 2000.

**Early Learning Initiative Birth Through Eight**

**Goal:** Build a system that enables all children to achieve Illinois Learning Standards by Grade Three.

1. Mailed 2,800 Guidelines for the 26th annual Young Authors Conference to all public and non-public schools (K-8). The Conference celebrates the original writing accomplishments of more than 1,000 children K-8. The Conference will be held May 19, 2001, at Illinois State University. Last year, more than 1,000 children, selected by local districts /schools, participated. This is a collaborative project between ISBE/Early Childhood and The Illinois Reading Council.
2. Met with Head Start Collaboration Office and DHS to discuss the Heads Up! Reading initiative in Illinois. Preliminary plans include a meeting of possible supporters. If adopted in Illinois, the project will bring undergraduate coursework in early language and literacy to Head Start and other early childhood professionals, starting Fall, 2001.
3. Met with Futures for Kids, DCCA, DHS, and Workforce Advantage to discuss early childhood initiatives and possible collaborations.
4. Facilitated and participated in Early Math, Meeting the Challenge, and Standards trainings with ROEs in southern part of state.