Agenda Topic: Teacher Effectiveness: The Education Trust Report

Staff Contact(s): Frank Llano
Rob Sampson
Pat Glenn

Purpose of Agenda Item

• To update State Board members on the progress of study related to teacher assessment and effectiveness.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item

• Board member awareness of the status of activity related to the assistance request made of NCREL regarding teacher assessment.

Background Information

In October, 2000, the Board requested agency staff to identify and review existing teacher assessments for this applicability to a more rigorous Basic skills Test for all future teachers to pass prior to initial certification. In response to this request, and following a meeting of the Governor’s Task Force on Teacher Quality, in November the State Superintendent requested NCREL’s assistance and recommendation in the identification of a teacher assessment approach.

In addition to conducting a test review of three assessments related to alignment with the standards and other criteria, and providing a recommendation, NCREL was requested to: 1) prepare a report on the relationship of a candidate’s success on teacher licensing tests, basic skills tests, general education tests to student achievement, and other variables, and 2) interview key partners, including members of the State Board, to establish criteria for a test and report these results to the State Board and the Governor’s Task Force on Teacher Quality.

In beginning to fulfill the request of the State Superintendent, NCREL asked The Education Trust to assist by providing a review of the existing research related to teacher effectiveness. In addition, a preliminary review of existing licensing examinations was conducted. The findings, conveyed in the attached report, provide a
beginning point for discussion of our key partners representing the Governor’s office, teacher associations, the business community, and others.

**Superintendent’s Recommendation**

To endorse continued work with NCREL to evaluate options for an Illinois Basic Skills Test and other content area assessments.

**Next Steps**

Continue discussions with key partners using the report of The Education Trust as a beginning point.