BOARD PRIORITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
JUNE 2001

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. Successfully completed standard setting panels for PSAE in five subjects. Private sector and higher education representatives are on each panel.
2. Work completed on PSAE survey with agency team and ACT – on web and mail out to all school districts
3. Internal team prepared analysis for Board retreat based on achievement and low income data.
4. Six additional Quality Assurance visits were completed; Nine Non-public school approval visits completed; Eight SGA monitoring visits completed.
5. Completed data analysis for ACT and ISAT for Boeing information.
6. 950 classroom assessments out of 1100 have been completed.

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. Education center management staff met with Shipley and Associates to begin alignment of System of Support using the Baldrige framework.
2. Continuing development of performance agreements with 12 eligible districts (Chicago 299, Elgin, Rockford, MECCA districts/East St. Louis, St. Anne).
3. Teams of external reviewers completed the review of approximately 30 applications for Reading Excellence with awards announced June 15.
4. Issued final RFP for Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration program; approximately 50 schools are expected to apply by July 1.
5. Continuing to work with IEA to develop a beta model for resource reallocation to support comprehensive reform implementation working with South Suburban school districts.
6. Provided written input to federal officials working on the development of accountability provisions in conference committee report for ESEA Reauthorization.
7. Quality Assurance staff have started to revise visit protocol to conform to new designation system and Baldrige framework; visits using the new process will be piloted second semester next year.
8. Summer Bridges program successfully launched in 118 districts.
9. Began development of evaluation model for CSR using value-added design model.
**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 in mathematics.

1. Facilitated the first Mathematics and Science Curriculum Showcase in Bloomington on June 14 and 15 for 120 participants in collaboration with NCREL, Fermi Lab, The North Central Mathematics and Science Consortium, and the Center for Mathematics and Science. District teams were educated in the issues involved in the curriculum selection process, evaluating software, aligning their curriculum to the Illinois Learning Standards, and team action planning.
2. Conducted internal review of proposals recommended by external reviewers and prepared FY2002 Scientific Literacy Grant Recommendations funding $2,082,086 of the $13,539,036 requested.
3. Began negotiating renewal grant applications with existing Scientific Literacy grant programs. To date we have over $4 million requested with only $2 million to distribute.
4. Selected participants, finalized contracts, and ordered materials for the Project 2061 Leadership Training “Focus on Standards for Science and Mathematics” to be held June 21-23 for 100 mathematics and science teachers.
5. Facilitated meeting of Post-Secondary stakeholders involved in mathematics teacher education to formalize the Illinois Mathematics Teacher Educators (IMTE) organization, and to identify questions regarding standards-led teacher preparation programs, teacher certification, and teacher certificate renewal so that questions and answers may be posted on the web. Also, to identify needs of the key stakeholders involved in teacher education, and to discuss proposed Illinois Mathematics Center.
6. Collaborated with MOLEX, Inc. and Geneva High School to attend Math and Molex Day that allowed high school students to visit a business and have discussions of the usefulness of mathematics and science in their professions.
7. Increased ISBE mathematics and science visibility by presenting at the ROE/ISC Connecting Conference.

**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. Activities are underway to produce 35,000 2001 Reading Kits and 35,000 updates to the 2000 Kits. Three 2001 Kits are being produced: Early Reading Support, Bilingual/ESL and Grade 3. The Illinois Snapshots of Early Literacy classroom-based K–1 assessment will be distributed as part of the Principal’s Kindergarten and grade 1 update and in the Early Reading Support Kit.

   • Met with Reading Kit chairs for a final review of proposed Kit contents.
Books and resources for the Kits are out for bid on the procurement website.
We have received approval to contract with the Sheltered Care Workshop in Freeport, Illinois that assembled and distributed Kits last year.
The Governor’s office has signed off on the cover art for the Kit box.

2. Met with representatives from Mayor Daley’s office to discuss how Reading Excellence Act funds will be aligned to other City and State efforts to improve reading.
3. Participated as a reviewer for the Department of Education in this year’s round of state-level proposals for REA funding.
4. Received local REA proposals from an additional 13 districts. Distributed proposals to 15 reviewers for review and held a conference call to overview review and scoring procedures. Announced grant awards on June 15th.
5. Invited book vendors to July 19th vendor fair to be held at Chicago’s King High School for all funded REA schools and districts.
6. Helped to design and deliver a week-long early childhood symposium on early literacy. Participants will produce curricular plans and models that are designed to implement the DRAFT early learning standards and the Illinois Learning Standards. These will become resources ISBE can distribute, statewide.
7. Met with the author team for the Illinois Snapshots of Early Literacy classroom-based assessment to plan for production and to participate in review of a preliminary draft of their Technical Manual that will document the technical rigor of the design and development of the instrument.
8. Convened over 50 trainers who have been delivering Meeting the Challenge K – 2 professional development in early reading instruction throughout FY ’01 to solicit recommendations on how training can be improved for FY ’02 and to identify topics for which new training modules should be developed.
9. Made 2 presentations ROE staff at their statewide Connecting Conference, one on statewide reading initiatives and the other on the administration and scoring of the Illinois Snapshots of Early Literacy.

PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION

Goal: Quality Educators.

1. The Division of Certificate Renewal staff members made 19 presentations statewide, responded to 434 incoming phone calls, made additional 426 outgoing calls.
2. The RFSP for the development of an Administrators’ Academy course on “The Evaluation of Certified Staff” (the only mandated AA course) was finished and presented to the Contract Review Committee. It was released on June 1.
4. Beginning May 16, we had 410 pending applications; received 433 new applications, issued 517 certificates and 572 deficiency letters and ended the period with 523 pending applications.
5. Alternative Teacher Certification program in elementary education developed by the University of Illinois at Chicago and the Golden Apple Foundation approved by the State Board of Education. A total of 14 programs exist now.
6. Completed two technical assistance visits to Kendall College on weaknesses cited in their campus visit and affirmed by the State Teacher Certification Board. These visits have allowed Kendall to gather and submit documentation to the certification one year in advance of the scheduled submission date.
7. Performance assessment symposium for college and university faculty and administrators at University of Illinois at Springfield successfully completed.

**EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVE BIRTH THROUGH EIGHT**

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

1. Sponsored a team from the Governor’s office and ISBE who attended the NASBE Early Childhood Education and its impact on Children with Disabilities Conference in New Orleans. The conference was designed to help states develop policy action plans.
2. Drafted a proposal to NASBE for a competitive planning grant as a result of participation in the conference.
3. Concluded Early Childhood Math Project with 40 districts.
4. Completed funding recommendations for continuing programs.
5. Participated in the first meeting of the Universal Preschool Task Force.