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. Shipped over 1 million documents – all ISAT tests and testing materials from NCS, Iowa City to 800 districts and 3100 schools.

2. Began filming Illinois teachers and students to produce the ISBE interactive CD-ROM of instruction on reading, writing and mathematics.


4. Field testing classroom assessment s for all learning areas and grade levels.

5. 280 school district learning teams continue to work using Rick Stiggins methods of aligning standards and classroom assessments with the cooperation of all ROEs and ESCs.

6. Worked with State Treasurer’s Office to align their Bank at School curriculum with the Learning Standards. The curriculum is disseminated throughout the state by the Treasurer’s Office.

7. Scheduled and refocused Quality Assurance external review trainings to internal review trainings.

8. 20 Quality Assurance visits.


10. Completed 9 Nonpublic School Recognition reports.

11. Mandates report completed and submitted to the General Assembly.

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. The internal staff, who are a part of the system of support, met to develop an "intervention map" for all districts with schools in Title I School Improvement status.

2. Started to work with Chicago Public Schools staff to develop a performance agreement for CPS schools in Title I School Improvement, using their proposed CASA program as the basis for working with the district.

3. Convened the Federal Programs Consolidated Committee of Practitioners to review and give input on the new designation system as is required by the Title I law. A subcommittee was assigned to provide formal feedback.


5. Provided technical assistance to districts applying for 21st CCLS grant due on March 30.

6. Facilitated development of a district continuous improvement plan for Pembroke SD 259.

7. Held the second of three required meetings with prospective CSRD applicants (Design Fair) during the state IASA conference. 25 districts attended as well as 13 model providers.

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. Held first Illinois Mathematics Task Force meeting with key stakeholders in mathematics education of Illinois students to develop a common vision and goals. Next meeting is April 30 where we will begin to develop action strategies to accomplish the common goals.

2. Collaborated with ISU to finalized and submitted NSF proposal with major universities to develop a Midwest Center for Teaching and Learning Mathematics (NSF funds 2 million dollars a year for five years).

3. Developed and posted RFSP for a state wide needs assessment (data collection and initial analysis including other data, e.g., TIMSS, ISAT) for science and mathematics as outlined in "Before It's Too Late" document. Proposals due March 26.
4. Met with representatives from ISTA and ICTM to develop action plan for the Illinois Building a Presence program. Over 250 Points of Contacts have been registered to date and over 75 applications for Key Leaders have been received to date. This is in coordination with the science network project funded by NSTA and Exxon Mobile.

5. Presented at Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics Southern Regional to approximately 100 teachers.

6. Presented issues involving mathematics in Illinois to visiting teacher group from the United Kingdom.

7. Revised M2T2 materials for distribution to all ROE/ISCs.

8. Designed website for Illinois Mathematics to include statewide calendar of mathematics activities, resources, on-line support system for M2T2, etc.

9. Presented to Regional Superintendents at the University of Illinois on M2T2, Math on Monday, and Building a Presence.

**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. Received and reviewed Reading Excellence Act proposals from 13 of the original 16 eligible districts.

2. Received and reviewed proposal bids for the Meeting the Challenge Grades 3 – 5 professional development training and resources.

3. Attended Reading Excellence Act meeting in Washington, DC. Made invited keynote address on phonics and early reading instruction to 300 REA staff from 27 funded states. Presented a poster session for 200 attendees on Illinois Reads activities.

4. Compiled list of nominated exemplary principals from throughout the state who will be selected as mentors for the REA exemplary principals’ cadre.

5. Worked with ISBE webmaster to revise the Illinois Reads website.

6. Hosted third meeting of approximately 65 Illinois college and university reading faculty to plan ongoing collaborative efforts to improve ISBE’s support for pre-service preparation in reading.
7. Made 4 presentations to Illinois Reading Conference attendees on Illinois Reads activities, publications and products; the Illinois Snapshots of Early Literacy and early intervention.

8. Hosted Illinois Reads information booth in the exhibitors’ hall at the Illinois Reading Conference Annual meeting. Approximately 1500 educators visited the exhibits.

9. Made a presentation on Illinois Reads to 60 local educators in Minooka.

10. Staff attended planning meeting for the Chicago Project at Orr High School.

11. Staff made a presentation on Illinois Reads to 100 educators at the IASA conference in Chicago.

12. Staff made a presentation to 30 CPS #299 early childhood professional development staff on the Pre-K Reading Kits.

13. Distributed copies of the first Illinois Reads Monograph to the Illinois Congressional delegation in Washington, DC.

PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION

Goal: Quality Educators.

1. On March 1, we began with 720 pending certificate applications. During the last two weeks, 453 new applications were received. We issued a total of 2,174 certificates, endorsements and duplicates, 520 deficiency letters and have 743 applications pending. Presently, we are at a three-week turnaround time.

2. Have completed our final listing of test administrations for next year to be published in the new Testing Bulletin to be sent out in late March.

3. Staff continues to participate in the Special Education hearings at the request of the chief legal counsel.

4. Have approved a total of 1,161 providers for Certificate Renewal. Applications reviewed within 48 hours while the law allows for 30 days.

5. Design plan for the new online Certificate Renewal Tracking System has been completed. This system will allow entire Certificate Renewal process to be accessed from any computer. A trial period is scheduled for May, hopefully ready for public use by July 1.

6. Certificate Renewal staff responded to 739 telephone calls in last week alone, and made 18 presentations to a variety of audiences across the state.
7. The Administrators’ Academy Management System database was updated for the last time, and courses are now being entered into the database in preparation for statewide usage.

**EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVE BIRTH THROUGH EIGHT**

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

1. Finalized FY02 Early Childhood Block Grant RFP. The document will be mailed during the week of March 19-23. The Bidders Conference will air via web cast on April 4, 1:00 p.m. It will be available for viewing until the proposal deadline of May 4, 2001.

2. Collected data from all Prekindergarten programs to be used for the NCEDL multi-state study. The study was publicized in the Superintendent’s Bulletin (Jan 26), and data collected electronically (with Research).

3. Participated on the Illinois team at the Education Commission of the States Midwest Regional Workshop, “Early Learning Improving Results for Young Children.” The meeting brought together teams from 12 states to discuss issues in early care and education, provided large group and state team opportunities. Highlighted speakers included Superintendent McGee, and a panel from Peoria District 150.

4. Submitted information to the Governor’s office to be used in nominating Illinois for an excellence award from ECS.

5. Met with Early Childhood Block grant program administrators from Decatur (Prekindergarten, Parental Training, Prevention Initiative, from three separately funded agencies) and approved plans for coordinated, continuous services for at risk children ages birth to 5, and their families. These programs have worked together over the course of 6 months to establish written procedures and agreements that will maximize the use of resources in the community. It will become a model for coordination/collaboration statewide.

6. Released Even Start RFP.

7. Met with Reading initiative and National Louis University to discuss involving early childhood professionals in early literacy efforts through Illinois Reads.