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 PSAE Testing for approximately 130,000 in 5 subjects; included ISBE and ACT monitoring.
2. Work completed on PSAE survey with agency team and ACT – on web and mail out to all school districts.
3. Validation committees completed preparation of all papers for contractor training and scoring for ISAT reading, mathematics, and writing – involved 200 teachers from across the state.
4. Three Standards Aligned Classroom fairs conducted with 221 teams and a total of 1,083 educators in attendance; peer evaluated plans completed for future posting to the ILSI web site.
5. 16 additional Quality Assurance Visits were completed; 7 Non-public school approval visits completed; 7 SGA monitoring visits completed.
6. Completed data analysis for ACT and ISAT for Boeing information.
7. 900 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. Continuing to work on the System of Support intervention map/website for internal tracking of support and progress in 88 eligible districts.
2. Reviewing first draft of performance agreement with Chicago Public Schools.
3. Have scheduled coordinated grant approval meetings with several other districts developing performance agreements (including Rockford, U-46).
4. Scheduled meeting with Jim Shipley and key agency staff to align SOS and other board priorities using Baldrige criteria.
5. Completed the selection of 15 additional Educators in Residence needed to meet the needs of the increased number of districts in Partnership status.
6. Working with IEA and New American Schools on a pilot for working with districts to reallocate resources to support school improvement.
7. Working with ROE, IEA and ILP to assist Cairo School District.

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. Selected and notified 120 participants for the first Mathematics and Science Curriculum Showcase in Bloomington on June 14 and 15 from over 300 applications.

2. Conducted Illinois Mathematics Administrator Academy Pilot for 25 administrators to determine the outline and activities to be used and coordinated with the Illinois Principal’s Association to develop Administrator Academy.

3. Selected and submitted to NSF state finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching.

4. Facilitated external readers’ scoring of of 157 Scientific Literacy grant proposals and collaborated with IMSA and TAMS on identifying quality staff development for projects.

5. Extended contracts to ROE/ISC for additional mathematics trainings of M2T2 and Math on Monday to be offered this fiscal year to accommodate high interest.

6. Facilitated Task Force meeting to finalized common vision statement and goals for Illinois Mathematics, and began identifying current projects and action planning of coordinated activities – next meeting scheduled for June 28 and 29 to further identify planned activities, identify gaps, and further action plan for coordinated activities.

7. Collaborated withISTA and ICTM to develop criteria for Illinois Mathematics and Science teacher awards ($5000 to awardees and $2500 to runner-up each year) provided by Exxon/Mobil through the Illinois Building a Presence Program.

8. Increased ISBE mathematics and science visibility by presenting at the:
   - Illinois Parent Teacher Association to over 50 parents;
   - Mathematics Science and Technology Day at the Technology Center of DuPage County to over 100 teachers;
   - Illinois Mathematics Association of Community Colleges (IMACC) to over 200 community college mathematics instructors; and
   - Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics Board meeting

**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.

2. 100 + educators attended the final Kit design team meeting. All of their materials must be turned in for bidding and production by 5/11/01.

3. We have completed videotaping of the 7 teachers who will be featured in the demonstration videotapes that will be included in the 2001 Reading Kits.

4. Met with staff from Fiscal and Communications and with representatives from the Developmental Services Center in Freeport, IL to identify timelines, costs, and procedures in necessary for September, 2001 delivery to all elementary schools.

5. 500 elementary principals and reading specialists attended the 4th Reading Days Conference in Rockford, IL. This concludes the conference series for the 2000-01 school year.
6. We have awarded a contract to Western Illinois University for the design, development and delivery of Meeting the Challenge grades 3 – 5 professional development. Three-day Trainer of Trainers’ workshops are scheduled for Belleville, Chicago and Peoria.

7. Met with Chicago district #299 warehouse staff and Illinois Reading Council Board members to design distribution plan to deliver 1,200,000 books to K – 3 classrooms in Title One schools. The books have been donated by the Disney Foundation. A trucking firm has agreed to make up to 12 delivery drops around the state for free.

8. Increased the visibility of Illinois Reads through:
   - Participation in NCREL regional meeting on reading to describe Illinois’ Reading Initiative to state representatives from IA, WI, MN, MI, IN, and OH. Led the Reading Excellence Act directors’ portion of the meeting.
   - An invited presentation to DuPage Co. literacy leaders. Approximately 60 people were in attendance.

PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND CERTIFICATION

Goal: Quality Educators.

1. Completed mailings of CD-ROMs on standards for teachers and administrators to all colleges and universities, the teacher unions, and the internal distribution to appropriate offices and personnel.

2. Co-sponsored with two regional offices of education, the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, the IEA, and various school districts a two-day conference on induction and mentoring; attendance exceeded 200 public school practitioners and several institutions of higher education with the purpose of sharing best practices and maintaining a statewide dialogue on this issue.

3. A mailing of 150,000 brochures promoting participation in the NBPTS process to every school building in the state. The brochures explain financial and support opportunities provided by the State Board.

4. Preparing reports to the State Board on draft standards for school service personnel, directors of special education, and middle-level education (May) and NCATE rules for the transition to 2000 standards (June).

5. Beginning April 20, we had 656 pending applications; we received 374 new applications, issued 746 certificates and 426 deficiency letters and ended the period with 487 pending applications.

6. The T1 line is finally working in our Chicago regional office. Now that the Illinois Century Network is administered by CMS, they will no longer support some of the functions so this was needed in order to continue timely services.

7. Appointed an advisory committee that will meet on June 6 to discuss key issues associated with the statutory requirements for a Standard Certification examination by July 2003, and to develop recommendations for the Superintendent.

8. Sent out more than 100 intent to deny, suspend or revoke letters to applicants and teachers informing them that we require further information from them within 10 days in order to prevent denial or revocation of their certificates.

9. The Teacher Survey and LPDC Member Survey initiated by the State Teacher Certification Board has been reviewed by our Research Department, revised and is now being formatted in as a self-mailer. 67,000 teachers have exchanged for new certificates and a 25% sample will be made. The purpose is to fulfill the legal
requirement, and to provide the ad hoc committee with information about this process.

10. Staff members of the Division of Certificate Renewal completed 10 presentations, responded to 376 incoming calls and returned 308 outgoing calls.

11. Will co-chair a meeting on May 15 with Diana Robinson involving participants across the state to discuss the provisional vocational certificate and issues related to its length of validity and its requirements for professional development.

**EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVE BIRTH THROUGH EIGHT**

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

1. Together with Futures for Kids and DHS, sent a letter of intent to the National Head Start Association for Illinois’ participation in the Heads Up! Reading project. The project brings professional development coursework in early literacy instruction to designated sites across the state through the use of interactive technology. Targeted participants in the project are Head Start, Child Care, and prekindergarten teachers, as well as preservice early childhood education students.

2. Presented information about ISBE Early Childhood programs for special needs children at 9 regional training meetings for the Head Start Memorandum of Agreement. The agreement, a Federal requirement for Head Start, establishes a collaborative commitment to the provision of early educational services for young children with disabilities.

3. Served as readers for several early childhood-related grant programs administered by ISBE.

4. Attended an Early Childhood State Specialists meeting in Dallas. The meeting, sponsored by the National Center for Early Development and Learning, brought together early childhood specialists from state education agencies to review the latest research in prekindergarten services and to learn effective strategies to translate research-based information to policy makers, state and local educators, and the public. Illinois was praised for its timely response to NCEDL requests for information for the multi-state preschool study.

5. Received grant applications for continuing Early Childhood Block Grant programs, along with more than 50 proposals for new programs. Programs were notified by mail of the receipt of their proposal. Initial budgets from continuing programs, reflecting 85% of the current budget, are being reviewed and approved for funding, pending notification of sufficient funds from the General Assembly. New program proposals and requests for additional funds from continuing programs are being read and evaluated, with final recommendations pending notification of the FY02 appropriation.

6. Reviewed and provided a letter of support for a Head Start proposal to fund a Kindergarten Readiness Survey in Illinois. As written, the project would survey local school districts about kindergarten readiness determination and provide valuable information to the Universal Preschool task force.