Agenda Topic: Student Advisory Council Report
Student-led School Safety Audit;
Teacher Quality and School Funding Observations;
Globalization of Education; Misc. Topics

- Revised By-Laws
- Final Draft Student Safety Audit
- Proposed Social Studies State Goal 19
- Various Reports on SAC Activities

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Purpose of Agenda Item

To inform the State Board of Education about the work of the 2000-2001 Student Advisory Council. Highlights include:

- Update and status report on the school safety activities; Student Safety Audit and recommendations for dissemination
- Report on preparedness of students to serve as spokespersons on issues of school safety, teacher quality, school funding
- Student recommendations for future SAC initiatives

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item

The Board will have data upon which to base future involvement of Illinois students in advancing the Board’s priorities in areas such as school funding, equal educational opportunities, teacher quality, school safety.

Consideration of proposed Social Studies State Goal and adoption of resolution urging schools to actively engage students in improving school safety.
Background Information

School Safety Audit
The SAC completed an ongoing project from the prior year to refine and “pilot test” the student led school safety audit. Additional background briefings were provided by the National Crime Prevention Council and by Bill Bond, school safety consultant for the National Association of Secondary School Principals (and former Principal, Health High School, West Paducah, KY). Training on implementation strategies was provided by Mr. Topper Steinman, National Center for Conflict Resolution Education and Dr. Robert Buser, Professor Emeritus, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Several students engaged their respective schools in the implementation of the audit process and formulated recommendations for statewide dissemination for school year 2001-02.

School Funding
The SAC visited two schools in southernmost Illinois to gain perspective on educational opportunities in Illinois. They visited Buncombe CSD 42, a K-8 district with a total district enrollment of 55 students and Cairo High School. Mr. F.E. “Joe” Glassford, Special Education Administrator and Consultant, conducted a workshop in school funding. Students completed a structured interview with their local school administrators and teachers about the impact school funding issues have on their respective schools. SAC members were prepared to speak about school funding and educational opportunity issues on behalf of the Board.

Social Studies State Goal (Globalization) I
Follow-up on prior year initiative, the “globalization committee” worked with consultant Dr. Michael Solliday, Professor Emeritus, SIU-C to finalize this SAC-initiated objective.

Teacher Quality
A discussion of teacher quality issues, conducted by Lee Patton and Frank Llano, led to the implementation of a survey of student’s perceptions of advantages/disadvantages of becoming a teacher. SAC members also identified “best teacher” qualities.

Analysis and Implications for Policy, Budget, Legislative Action and Communications
Students will present their findings and recommendations to the Board at the Work Study Session. Their report will inform future policy decisions on student-led school safety initiatives and future student involvement in the Boards school reform and improvement efforts.

Superintendent’s Recommendation
The Board should continue to support and endorse the student-led school safety audit as well as increased student involvement in teacher quality, equitable educational opportunities, school funding and other Board priorities.