Agenda Topic: Student Advisory Council Report
Student School Safety
Legislative Action
Expanded World Views
Teacher Evaluation/Appraisal/Recognition
Partnership Activity

Materials: Student Advisory Council Report

Staff Contact(s): Marilyn Holt
Mike Kotner
Joe Turek
Bridget Bryant

Purpose of Agenda Item
To inform the State Board of Education about the work of the 2001-2002 Student Advisory Council. Highlights include:

- Update of the Student School Safety Audit
- “Students Speak Out Day”
- Teacher Recognition
- Students’ reaction to September 11th and the need for an expanded world view

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 safety, legislative issues, teacher recognition, and standards. Specific outcomes include:

- Support the School Safety Audit Resolution and its intent to promote meaningful involvement of students in improving school safety
- Continued professional development and support for schools through ROE #12 partnership, regional trainings, and distribution of School Safety Audit
- Expand the student forum/lobby day in 2002-2003
- Add consideration of Social Studies State Goal 19 to the process of refining Illinois Learning Standards in the future
- Refine and field test the teacher appraisal instrument and implementation process
- Develop the Teacher Recognition Program in conjunction with Those Who Excel, Teacher of the Year and Milken Awards
• Continue the Student Advisory Council partnership with Illinois Association of Student Councils
• Fund and staff the Student Advisory Council work for 2002-2003

Background Information

Student School Safety Audit
This is a cumulation of the Student Advisory Council’s previous two years’ work in developing a student-led school safety audit. The audit was disseminated in the fall of 2001 to all school districts in Illinois. The SAC hosted a Safe Schools Symposium on January 23 involving Roy Ballentine, Pearl, Mississippi; Karen Curtner, Jonesboro, Arkansas; Linda Graham, Jonesboro, Arkansas; and Jon DeStefano, Columbine High School, Littleton, Colorado; with 498 students and educators in attendance. Presentations were made by SAC members at local school districts. In addition, a majority of SAC members engaged their respective schools in the implementation of the audit process.

As a result of these activities, a Senate Resolution and House Resolution were drafted by the SAC for introduction at the spring legislative session encouraging schools to utilize the Student School Safety Audit as part of their school safety efforts.

Legislative Action
A “Students Speak Out Day” was held on April 10 in which SAC members met with Governor George Ryan, the Deputy Governor for Education, Senate and House representatives, and others for the purpose of support for the SAC Resolution and school funding issues.

Global Education Initiative
In May of 2001 the Student Advisory Council proposed Social Studies State Goal 19 designed to enhance the understanding of how the different social, economic, and political systems of the world function as a whole in today’s interconnected global society. The events of September 11th dramatically illustrate the importance and significance of this issue.

Teacher Evaluation/Appraisal/Recognition
The Student Advisory Council continued its discussion of student appraisal of teachers and has a completed sample appraisal form. The teacher recognition initiative was a direct outgrowth of these discussions.

Partnership Activity
The State Board has emphasized Collaborative Partnership. Consistent with this approach, the Student Advisory Council has sought to leverage the impact of its initiatives through bolstering our partnership with the Illinois Association of Student Councils which represents over 2,000 students in the state.
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, lending the student/voice perspective to the legislative process, and other initiatives.

Superintendent’s Recommendation

The Superintendent recommends the following:

- Support the School Safety Audit Resolution
- Support the continued professional development for schools through ROE #12 partnership, regional trainings, and distribution of School Safety Audit
- Support the expansion of the student forum/lobby day in 2002-2003
- Support the addition of Social Studies State Goal 19 to the Illinois Learning Standards
- Support the refinement and field testing of the teacher appraisal instrument and its implementation process
- Support the development of the Teacher Recognition Program in conjunction with the Teacher of the Year and Milken Awards
- Support the Student Advisory Council partnership with the Illinois Association of Student Councils
- Support the funding and staffing of the Student Advisory Council for 2002-2003