TO: Illinois State Board of Education

FROM: Robert E. Schiller, Superintendent
       Christopher Koch, Director
       Respicio Vazquez, General Counsel

Agenda Topic: Rules for Initial Review - Part 25 (Certification)

Materials: Recommended Amendments

Staff Contacts: Christopher Koch
                Michael Long
                Rob Sampson
                Dennis Williams

Purpose of Agenda Item

To present the proposed amendments for initial review and secure the Board’s authorization to distribute them for public comment.

Expected Outcome of Agenda Item

A motion authorizing the staff to publish the proposed amendments in the Illinois Register to elicit public comment.

Background Information

The amendments contained in this set of rules will implement two major aspects of P.A. 92-796 (HB 1436).

New requirements for the renewal of administrative certificates are being presented in Section 25.315 as a result of this legislation, to be effective beginning July 1, 2003. Individuals serving in positions that require administrative certification must prepare plans and submit them to reviewers or review panels, respectively, that are identified in the statute. Each administrator’s plan must include annual completion of a program offered by the Administrators’ Academy and one other professional activity per year of the certificate’s validity. Much of the detail provided in Section 25.315 describes processes associated with review of the plans; review of administrators’ evidence of completion for the required activities; and review of applications for certificate renewal. The legislation also provides for congruence among the periods of validity of each individual’s administrative certificate and teaching certificate(s). Therefore, in 2003 some individuals will receive administrative certificates that have fewer than five years
of validity, and the requirements for continuing professional development will be reduced accordingly during that first renewal cycle. The rules also describe several other circumstances in which proportionate reduction will apply.

**Requirements for the standard certificate** are presented in a series of new Sections in Subpart K of the rules. P.A. 92-796 provides that candidates for the standard certificate must choose among six specified alternatives and fulfill the requirements associated with the option chosen. The proposed rules identify these options and describe the requirements for each one. In some instances approval of the State Board is required for the provider, the course, or the activity, and the rules state the standards for the granting of that approval, based on the related requirements established by the statute.

The proposed revisions to Sections 25.720 and 25.725 are technical in nature and are needed for further clarification of the applicability of the testing requirement for certified individuals seeking additional certificates.

These rules were reviewed by the State Teacher Certification Board at its November meeting. The STCB voted to recommend the proposed amendments to the State Board of Education. Several minor changes were subsequently made in the draft to clarify points raised by members of the Certification Board.

**Analysis and Implications for Policy, Budget, Legislative Action, and Communications**

Policy Implications: Please see above.

Budget Implications: This rulemaking has no budgetary implications for the agency. (It is true that staff effort will be involved in approving the courses and activities discussed in Subpart K of the rules. However, the agency’s involvement in these processes is dictated by the statute rather than being a function of the rules alone.)

Legislative Action: It may be worthwhile to initiate a discussion about the potential for changing the statute to make it easier for experienced individuals from other states to receive standard certificates in Illinois. Particularly in the case of states with multi-tiered systems of certification, it is reasonable to question whether experienced individuals should be subject to the requirements set forth in these rules. However, the current language of the statute explicitly makes out-of-state candidates subject to these. This issue will be taken to the next meeting of the Board’s Legislative Affairs Committee for consideration.

Communications: Please see “Next Steps” below.
**Superintendent’s Recommendations**

1) Adopt the following motion:

   The State Board of Education hereby authorizes solicitation of public comment on the proposed rulemaking for:

   Certification (23 Illinois Administrative Code 25),

   including publication of the proposed amendments in the *Illinois Register*.

2) Investigate the potential for legislative action as discussed above with the Board’s Governmental Affairs Committee.

**Next Steps**

With the Board’s authorization, staff will submit the proposed amendments to the Administrative Code Division for publication in the *Illinois Register* to elicit public comment. Additional means, such as the Superintendent’s Bulletin and the agency website, will also be used to inform interested parties of the opportunity to comment on this rulemaking.