Agenda Topic: Overview of the Certificate Renewal Tracking System (CERTS)

Materials: None

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Purpose of Agenda Item

To update the Board on the electronic Internet-based application created to support the legislated certificate renewal process for teachers.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item

The State Board members will understand the capabilities of the new system and know how to access it.

Background Information

In response to the State Board’s recommendation, a study was conducted to create an Internet-based system to support the Certificate Renewal Process. Six months ago a close collaborative partnership with the ISBE Technology Unit began that resulted in a system (CERTS) that streamlines the complex certificate renewal process for teachers, reduces paperwork, and alleviates some of the filing requirements while satisfying the legislation and administrative rule requirements.

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

The CERTS system fully supports the current legislation.

Providing every Illinois certificated teacher with information about CERTS is a serious communications challenge. Working with ISBE, stakeholders and partners such as the Illinois Education Association, the Illinois Federation of Teachers, the Illinois Coalition of Non-public Schools, and Regional Offices of Education and Intermediate Service Centers will provide information to teachers, Local Professional Development
Committee (LPDC) and Regional Professional Development Review Committee (LPDRC) members.

**Pros and Cons of Various Actions**

CERTS is a positive step in supporting the ongoing professional development for teachers required by the legislation. Furthermore, the capabilities for tracking and reporting statewide activities for Certificate Renewal are extraordinary.

**Superintendent’s Recommendation**

The State Superintendent recommends the Board endorse the CERTS process and encourage all organizations, associations, and individuals involved in the Certificate Renewal process to promote this outstanding Internet-based application to make the work easier, faster and more efficient.

**Next Steps**

Staff members will be identified in the Technology Unit who will respond to technical questions, concerns and problems with CERTS. Certificate Renewal staff members will share responsibility for providing programmatic assistance to clients.

The Communications Unit will support the CERTS efforts by supplying the media and other stakeholders with another news release advertising the benefits of the system.