TO:    Illinois State Board of Education
FROM: Randy J. Dunn, Interim Superintendent

Agenda Topic: Action Item: Adoption of 2006 ISAT/IMAGE Testing Dates
Staff Contact(s): Becky McCabe

Purpose of Agenda Item
The purpose of this agenda item is to present the proposed 2006 ISAT/IMAGE testing dates for adoption.

Expected Outcomes of Agenda Item
The Board will be asked to adopt the proposed 2006 ISAT/IMAGE testing dates.

Background Information
The ISAT and IMAGE for 2006 will assess reading and mathematics for students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. The ISAT for 2006 will continue to assess science for students in grades 4 and 7. In prior years, the Board has taken action to approve a two-week window for the administration of these tests. The two-week window needs to provide our new contractor, Harcourt, sufficient time to generate student, school and district score reports for posting online by June 1, 2006. A correction period will still be built into this process.

ISBE’s Division of Student Assessment has consulted with a number of districts, including Chicago Public Schools, on their preferred testing period. No district wanted to test after spring break. A March 13 – 24 testing window will allow districts to keep the calendars that have been proposed to their boards, and to have testing prior to spring break for almost all districts. If districts have scheduled a spring break during either week of this window, they may submit a request to modify this assessment window as specified by law.

The date for the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) cannot be set until a contractor is selected to provide reading, mathematics, and science tests for the 2006 administration.

Analysis and Implications for Policy, Budget, Legislative Action and Communications
Policy Implications: Please see above.

Budget Implications: None.

Legislative Action: None needed.

Communication: Please see “Next Steps” Below.
**Superintendent’s Recommendation**
The Superintendent recommends that the State Board of Education adopt the following motion:

> The State Board of Education hereby adopts March 13 – 24, 2006 as the two-week testing window for the administration of the ISAT and IMAGE tests for grades 3 through 8 during the 2005-06 school year.

**Next Steps**
Notice of the adopted testing window will be distributed to all districts through the Superintendent’s weekly report, and will be posted on ISBE’s website.