TO: Illinois State Board of Education
FROM: Robert E. Schiller, Superintendent
       Lynne Haeffele Curry, Director

Agenda Topic: Discussion Item:
State Legislative Update

Materials: None

Staff Contact(s): Peter Leonis

Purpose of Agenda Item
To bring the Board up to date with regards to state legislative activities.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda
The Board will be informed of recent legislative activities.

Background Information
The 93rd General Assembly has been sworn in and has begun introducing and considering legislation along with the ISBE Budget.

The Superintendent and ISBE staff have been busy preparing for and appearing before a host of legislative committees including the House Appropriations-Elementary and Secondary Education Committee, the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee and the Senate Education Committee.

The House Appropriations Committee has held the first of five hearings. On February 4, 2003, the Superintendent gave the committee an overview of the State of Education as well as an overview of ISBE 2004 budget request. The remaining hearings are scheduled for February 19 (GSA and Hold Harmless), February 26 (categorical funding, both mandated and discretionary), March 4 (federal funds and TRS), and March 11 (public testimony on ISBE budget).

On February 18, 2003, Senator Del Valle, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, will hold the first of several statewide hearings on “school funding reform.” He has asked that Chairman Gidwitz and Superintendent Schiller testify before the committee outlining the need for reform. He has also asked that Bob Leininger make a presentation on the EFAB recommendations.
On February 20, 2003, the Superintendent has been invited to testify before the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee with regard to the *No Child Left Behind Act* and State Accountability draft plan which was submitted to the U.S. Department of Education.

**Superintendent’s Recommendation**

Staff should continue to work with the Board’s Governmental Relations Committee and the Superintendent to achieve the Board’s legislative goals.

**Next Steps**

Proceed with Board’s legislative agenda.