2004 Legislative Proposals

- **Financially Distressed Schools**
  The proposed legislation would improve state support for schools in financial difficulty by permitting the state to begin working with schools sooner.

- **High School Graduation Requirements** [State Board/Superintendent] –
  The proposals would amend the School Code to strengthen the rigor of graduation expectations for high school students beginning in the 2008-2009 school year, and further in the 2009-2010 school year. This proposal would require that in the first year of the phase-in one of the required two years of math be algebra and specifying that "science" must be either biology or chemistry. In the second year of the phase-in another year would be added to the math requirement with geometry being a required course. Also in the second year of the phase-in another year of science would be added which must be biology, chemistry or physics.

- **PSAE as a Condition of Graduation** [State Superintendent]
  This proposal would simply clarify that all high school students must take the PSEA at least once.

- **Creation of the Joint Education and Health/Human Services Committee** [State Superintendent]
  This proposal establishes an interagency state collaborative to coordinate and leverage the resources of multiple agencies that address the needs of children. This collaborative, the Joint Education, Health and Human Services Committee (JEHHS) would include the State Superintendent of Education, the Executive Directors of the Board of Higher Education and the Community College Board, the Director of the Department of Human Services, the Chair and one additional member of the three Education Boards, the Senate and House Committee Chairs and minority ranking committee members.

Technical or Audit Related Changes

- **Repeal of Illinois Occupational Skill Standards Act (IOSSA)** [Dunkel]
  105 ILCS 423
  Combined ISBE and ICCB effort to eliminate the IOSSA based on the results of a final study conducted by ICCB, limited resources, and lack of use by businesses in Illinois.

- **Teacher Supply and Demand Report** [Curry] - 105 ILCS 5/2-3.11
  Proposal to change the report from annual to biennial and to change the submission date from January 1 to February 1. The date change will assist in ensuring all necessary data is received. Making the report biennial will provide more useful data to universities.
• **Latch Key Reports** [Curry] - 105 ILCS 5/2-3.11b  
*Proposal to modify the report to make it reflect statewide activity, not individual district data.*

• **Salary and Benefit Survey** [Curry] – 105 ILCS 5/2-3.103  
*Deletes references to non-certificated support personnel from the annual survey of salaries and benefits.*

• **Membership Dues** [Curry] - 105 ILCS 5/10-22.40  
*Eliminates the requirement for school associations to submit an annual report on trends in female participation in athletic competition in order to accept membership dues.*

• **Charitable Institutions** [Audit-based] – 105 ILCS 5/2-3.10 and 5/2-3.11  
*Repeal the Charitable Institutions mandate from the School Code and accompanying requirement for an annual report on same. There are no charitable institutions in existence that fall under this provision.*

• **Capital Development Board** [Audit-based] – 105 ILCS 5/35-30  
*Repeal portion of School Code that requires ISBE to approve applications to the School Building Commission (SBC) for area vocational education facilities. The SBC was eliminated in the 70’s and this is now handled by CD.*

• **Computer Literacy Grants** [John Sonnenberg]  
*Depletes a 105/2-3.43 which authorizes ISBE to make computer literacy grants. The provision is duplicative and should have been repealed when the School Technology Program was established. Repeal addresses audit finding.*

• **Charter Schools** [State Board] – 105 ILCS 5/27A-7  
*Proposals arise from Charter School Annual report recently approved by the Board. The proposal would also require background checks for all charter school employees and board members. It would require that charter school boards follow the same conflict of interest guidelines as regular school boards and also sets specific time frames by which charter school proposals must be submitted and reviewed.*

• **Mandate Waivers** [State Board] -- 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g  
*Changes arise from the 2004 Cumulative waiver report recently approved by the Board. The proposal would authorize school boards to hold school on legal holidays, or use the days for teachers’ institutes, etc., including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday, President Lincoln’s birthday, Casimir Pulaski’s birthday, Columbus Day, and Veteran’s Day. Also allow districts to shorten the instructional day when the PSAE exam is administered.*

• **PBVS Fees**  
*The proposal would allow the State Board to establish by rule the fee amounts for the Private Business and Vocational Schools program. Current fees are set in statute and are insufficient to cover the cost of the program.*