TO: Illinois State Board of Education
FROM: Robert E. Schiller, Superintendent
       Peter Leonis, Director

Agenda Topic: 2004 Legislative Proposals
Materials: Summary of 2004 Legislative Proposals
Staff Contact(s): Peter Leonis

Purpose of Agenda Item
The purpose of this agenda item is to review the Illinois State Board of Education’s 2004 legislative agenda.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item
The Board would have reviewed and discussed the agency’s legislative agenda for the 2004 session.

Background Information
The 2004 ISBE legislative agenda is the result of several sources most notably the Superintendent’s recommendations as outlined in the 2003 Condition of Education Report such as the creation of a Joint Education, Health and Human Services Committee and the strengthening of high school graduation requirements.

Other proposals included:
- Allowing ISBE to intervene with financially distressed school districts sooner
- Addressing the problem of high school juniors who are held back from taking the Prairie State Achievement Exam.
- Technical and audit related changes.

Also, at a recent hearing on high school dropouts Superintendent Schiller was asked to develop legislation that would help address this problem. Staff are still working on specific proposals to address this issue.

Attached is a complete summary of proposed legislation which has been organized into two categories priority bill and technical/audit related changes.

Next Steps
Finalize legislative language in preparation for introduction.