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

Agenda Topic: Amendments to the 2002 Academic Early Warning List

Staff Contact(s): Connie Wise
                  Don Full
                  Andy Metcalf

Purpose of Agenda Item
To inform the Board about amendments to be made to the 2002 Academic Early Warning List.

To seek Board approval of the amendments.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item
The Board will have an understanding of why the amendments are needed.

The Board will approve the amendments to the 2002 Academic Warning List (AEWL).

Background Information

In 1991, the state Legislature approved legislation creating the Illinois Academic Watch List as one of a number of efforts to improve the state’s school recognition process and increase accountability of public schools. This section of the law was amended in 1996 to include an Academic Early Warning List. Schools are eligible for placement on the state’s Academic Early Warning List when their composite scores show that fewer than 50 percent of the tests met or exceeded state standards for two years in a row. Schools that remain on the Academic Early Warning List for two consecutive years and do not make adequate progress are placed on the Academic Watch List.

Since the inception of the Academic Early Warning List in 1997, circumstances occasionally arise that warrant reanalysis of the data and the placement of schools on the AEWL. For the 2002 AEWL, there are seven (7) schools for which data have been reanalyzed, resulting in the need for amendments.
SCHOOLS THAT SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE ACADEMIC EARLY WARNING LIST:

Lincoln Jr. High School in LaSalle Elementary School District 122. This school questioned the results of the writing assessments within the required 45-day timeline. As a result, they paid for the rescoring of 70 essays. Based on five additional writing "meets" scores, this school has 197 scores that meet or exceed out of 395 total scores, computing to 49.87 percent. Therefore, it is recommended that this school be removed from the AEWL, since its percentage of meets + exceeds scores is above 49.5 percent.

A. J. Katzenmaier Middle School in North Chicago School District #187 is now an elementary school. The grade configuration changed from grades 6-8 to grades K-5. Consequently, its County-District-School (CDS) code was changed to reflect the change in grade configuration. Two other schools in this district, Novak King Middle School and Neal Elementary School, also had grade configuration changes and have already been removed from the AEWL, as directed by Superintendent Schiller. Therefore, it is recommended that A. J. Katzenmaier Middle School also be removed from the AEWL.

SCHOOLS THAT SHOULD BE ADDED TO 2002 AEWL

Five schools that are eligible for the AEWL were not identified when the original 2002 AEWL was compiled, due to technical coding errors. NCS Pearson, the contractor for providing assessment data, had used incorrect data codes. Consequently, ISBE was unable to match 2002 performance data to 2001 performance data. Thus, these schools went undetected. Now that the coding errors have been corrected, staff recommends that the following five schools be added to the 2002 AEWL based on the 2001 and 2002 scores shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>MTEX01</th>
<th>MTEX02</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAROL MOSELEY BRAUN</td>
<td>DOLTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 149</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>32.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEADOWVIEW SCHOOL</td>
<td>COUNTRY CLUB HILLS SCH DIST 160</td>
<td>46.6</td>
<td>41.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW DAWES AREA ELEM SCHOOL</td>
<td>CITY OF CHICAGO SCHOOL DIST 299</td>
<td>42.1</td>
<td>44.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPALDING ELEM SCHOOL</td>
<td>CITY OF CHICAGO SCHOOL DIST 299</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>27.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEPHEN DECATUR MIDDLE SCHOOL</td>
<td>DECATUR SCHOOL DISTRICT 61</td>
<td>46.4</td>
<td>46.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Analysis and Implications for Policy, Budget, Legislative Action and Communications

Policy Implications

Keeping the AEWL accurate is essential to the integrity of the state’s educational accountability system. Making amendments for the reasons outlined for these schools (test rescoring, school reconfiguration, coding corrections) is consistent with past Board policy and practice.

Budget Implications

None. Providing System of Support services for the remainder of the FY03 year to the five new schools will not create a significant budget impact.

Legislative Action

None

Communication

Upon the Board’s approval of these amendments, the agency will provide immediate written communication to the affected districts and schools regarding their AEWL status. Additionally, the agency website that displays the 2002 Early Academic Warning List will be revised in order to ensure that the public has accurate information.

Pros and Cons of Various Actions

Failure to take action on the status of the schools that should be removed from the AEWL would result in the two schools continuing to be eligible for support services from the agency. Additionally, it will have implications for future years status.

Failure to take action on those schools that should be included on the AEWL makes them no longer eligible for support services and will have implications for future years status.

Superintendent’s Recommendation

The Superintendent recommends that the 2002 AEWL be amended to delete the following schools:

Lincoln Jr. High School in LaSalle Elementary School District 122
A. J. Katzenmaier Middle School in North Chicago School District 187
The Superintendent recommends that the 2002 AEWL be amended to add the following schools:

- Carol Mosely Braun School in Dolton School District 149
- Meadowview School in Country Club Hills School District 160
- New Dawes Area Elementary School in Chicago School district 299
- Spalding Elementary School in Chicago School District 299
- Stephen Decatur Middle School in Decatur School District 61

**Next Steps**

Notify affected schools of their status and initiate System of Support assistance for eligible schools.