AGENDA

1. Roll Call

2. Board Member Participation by Other Means

*3. American Diploma Project and Standards Review

4. Adjourn

* Items listed with an asterisk (*) will be discussed and Board action may be taken in the plenary session.
ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
June 18, 2008

TO: Illinois State Board of Education
FROM: Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Education  
Susan C. Morrison, Special Assistant to the Superintendent

Agenda Topic: Discussion of American Diploma Project and Standards Review
Contact(s): Christopher A. Koch and Susan C. Morrison

Materials: Please bring the following materials from your May Education Policy Planning Packet:  
http://www.isbe.net/board/meetings/may08/EPPC-5b_ACHIEVE_Stds_Review.pdf

- pp. 5-6 (May EPPC packet)  Cover memo from staff
- pp. 7-9 (May EPPC packet)  Memorandum from Achieve with information about the American Diploma Project Network
- pp. 41-44  Sample Letters of State Commitment
- pp. 45-46  ADP Overview

Purpose of Agenda Item
The purpose of this agenda item is to provide State Board of Education members an opportunity to interact with each other and with Agency staff regarding the implications of Illinois joining the American Diploma Project Network (ADP). Board members will bring their questions to the table during this work-study session.

Relationship to/Implications for the State Board’s Strategic Plan

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item
The Illinois State Board of Education will better understand the results of the standards review process and potential next steps.

Background Information
The Illinois Learning Standards were adopted 1997 and have not undergone a review and revision since their adoption. The information provided to the Board by Achieve, Inc. should allow for substantive discussion of the findings, recommendations and next steps.

Supported by our partnership with the Gates Foundation and the Governor’s Office, Achieve, Inc., a bipartisan non-profit organization created by the nation’s governors and corporate
leaders conducted a review and analysis of the Illinois Learning Standards for grades 8-12 and compared them to Achieve’s exemplars in English, Science and Mathematics. The findings represent consensus opinions of Achieve’s team of national experts. The report provides answers to the following questions.

1. How do Illinois Learning Performance Descriptors compare with the rigor of standards set by Achieve’s exemplars in English Language Arts, Science and Mathematics?

2. How well do the Illinois Learning Performance Descriptors in the three content areas measure up against the criteria of coherence, progression, focus, specificity, clarity and measurability?

Superintendent’s Recommendation
Following this work-study session, I recommend that the Board consider adopting the following motion during Thursday’s plenary session:

The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the State Superintendent to take the necessary steps for Illinois to join the American Diploma Project

Next Steps
To officially join the ADP network the K-12 education chief, the Governor, higher education chief and business leaders must sign a letter outlining their shared commitment to the standards revision process.