Annual Report

Illinois State Advisory Council

2012 - 2013
Memorandum

To: Governor, Senators, Representatives, and other Interested Parties

From: Dr. Elizabeth Conran, Chair
Illinois State Advisory Council on the
Education of Children with Disabilities

Subject: Annual Report 2012-2013

On behalf of the Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities (ISAC), we are pleased to submit this report summarizing the Council’s activities and accomplishments during its 2012-2013 sessions.

ISAC has experienced attrition of members whose terms had expired or who had resigned due to personal reasons. Our members are dedicated individuals who have agreed to stay on ISAC awaiting reappointment. We hope soon to have people named to the Council as each member of ISAC plays an integral part on the Council on behalf of children with disabilities in the state. Members, when appointed will represent most areas of the state as parents of children with disabilities, persons with disabilities, one member at large, educators, and governmental service agencies. We are pleased to announce that now members of the committee will also represent the two teachers’ unions, Illinois Federation of Teachers and Illinois Education Association. ISAC committees include: Executive, Access, Bilingual, Comprehensive State Plan, General Supervision/Due Process, Family Communications, Finance, Legislation, Personnel Development, Transition, and Rules and Regulations.

The Council provides comment on state and federal proposed rules that affect children with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA). ISAC provides valuable public comment both to ISBE and to other legislative venues in order to assure that the voice of all stakeholders is heard. The Chair provided public comment to the State Board of Education regarding the Part 226 Rules and other rules relevant to children with disabilities. Members of the Finance Committee also provided public comment regarding a more equitable funding for special education. In the spring, ISAC members held a legislative breakfast at the Capitol in order to educate legislators about the importance and duties of ISAC. The breakfast, as well as the decorations, were completely prepared by special education students in various programs from around the state. ISAC has also continued to analyze the effect of the No Child Left Behind initiatives on students with disabilities, address the critical shortage of highly qualified personnel in special education, expressed concern about the lack of funding to provide adequate special education services, monitored Illinois’ progress regarding educating children with disabilities in the least restrictive environment, and changes that have been made regarding the Illinois Alternate Assessment and Due Process System. This year ISAC was one of the sponsors for the Illinois Statewide Transition Conference attended by more than 700 students, parents, and professionals demonstrating the importance of transition to families in the state. ISAC members continue to provide public testimony both before the Illinois State Board of Education and before legislative committees on issues that impact students with disabilities.

ISAC appreciates your support in making a free and appropriate public education a reality for all students in Illinois. Thank you for your commitment to maintaining the level of services necessary for every student to attain his or her individualized program goals.
Mission Statement

The role of the Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities is to be a proactive body, advising the Governor, Legislature and State Board of Education on current issues relating to the education of children and youth with disabilities, as well as the unmet needs of these children and their families. It is also the responsibility of this Council to encourage new strategies and technologies, while advocating high standards of excellence throughout Illinois.
Appendices

Appendix A: Presentation to State Board of Education Finance and Audit Committee FY 2014 Budget Hearing

Appendix B: Presentation to State Board of Education Finance and Audit Committee FY 2013 Budget Hearing

Appendix C: Letter to the Governor for Full Funding

Appendix D: Proposed Changes to Special Education Rules (23 Ill. Adm. Code 226)

Appendix E: Letter to ISBE McLean County Comprehensive Plan for Withdraw

Appendix F: Letter to ISBE River Forest District 90 Comprehensive Plan for Withdraw

Appendix G: Letter to ISBE JS Morton Comprehensive Plan for Withdraw

Appendix H: Letter to ISBE Berwyn North School District 98 Comprehensive Plan for Withdraw

Appendix I: Letter to ISBE Forest Park School Comprehensive Plan for Withdraw

Appendix J: Letter to ISBE Cicero School District 99 Comprehensive Plan for Withdraw

Appendix K: Letter to ISBE Berwyn South School District 100 Comprehensive Plan for Withdraw

Appendix L: Letter to ISBE Hinsdale Comprehensive Plan for Withdraw

Appendix M: Letter to ISBE Class Size
Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities
Annual Report for 2012-2013

Identity and Purpose

Identity
The Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities (ISAC) is statutorily mandated by state and federal law to provide advice and policy guidance to the Governor, General Assembly, and the State Board of Education with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities and the unmet needs of children with disabilities.

Purpose
The purpose of the Council is to:

1) Provide advice and policy guidance to the Governor, General Assembly, and the Illinois State Board of Education with respect to:
   a) special education and related services for children with disabilities; and,
   b) unmet needs of children with disabilities.

2) Advise the State Board of Education regarding:
   a) all rules and regulations related to the education of children with disabilities that are to be promulgated by the Board;
   b) modifications or additions to county or regional comprehensive plans; and,
   c) qualifications for hearing officers and the rules and procedures for hearings conducted under Section 14-8.02 or Section 14-8.02a.

3) Assist the State Board of Education in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the United States Secretary of Education.

4) Advise the State Board of Education in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

5) Advise state and local education agencies regarding educational programs and materials that may be provided to children with disabilities to enable them to fully exercise their constitutional and legal rights and entitlements as citizens, including those afforded under the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the Illinois Human Rights Act.

6) Advise the State Board of Education in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities.

7) Comment publicly on rules and regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities and the procedures for distribution of funds.
Council Membership

Membership

The members must be citizens of the United States and of Illinois and are selected on the basis of their knowledge of, or experience in, the education of children with disabilities. Members are to be broadly representative of Illinois' population in regard to developmental, physical and mental disabilities, race, ethnic background, gender, and geographic location.

The membership of the Council is established by statute and includes twenty-three (23) persons appointed by the Governor and four (4) ex-officio voting members:

Governor Appointee

6 parents of children with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 years currently receiving special education services at public expense:

- Dr. Elizabeth Conran St. Charles 4/06
- Deb Fornoff Washington 8/07
- Rick Ramirez Moline 8/07
- Kristine Stanley Peoria Heights 8/07
- Stanley J. Valentine East Peoria 8/03
- Tiffany D. Cole Monmouth 2/13
- Joanna Graham Macomb 2/12
- Vacant

3 individuals with disabilities, including one student or former student who is at least 18 and no older than 21 years of age at the time of his or her appointment and who is receiving special education services at public expense or received those services at the time his or her high school program terminated.

- Anel Gonzalez Riverside 08/07
- Susy Woods Chesterfield 08/07
- Vacant

One regional superintendent of schools

Stephen Breeze Jacksonville 06/12

One representative of an institution of higher education that prepares special education and related services personnel

Suzanne Lee Champaign 08/07

One teacher of students with disabilities

Carrie Janes Aurora 08/07

One superintendent of a public school district

Rebecca Clark Chicago 2/12

One director of special education cooperative or special education administrator from a

Heath Brosseau Chicago Ridge 08/12
school district of less than 500,000 population

One representative of a public charter school  Elizabeth Purvis  Chicago  08/05

One representative of a private school serving children with disabilities  Mike Otte  Oak Forest  03/04

One representative of a vocational, community, or business organization that provides transition services to children with disabilities  Sharon Slover  Harvard  08/05

One at-large member from the general public  Jennifer Naddeo  Barrington  08/07

Ex-Officio Members
Kye Gaffey, Department of Juvenile Justice
Bobbie Gregg, DCFS Director or Designee
Marjorie Olson, Department of Human Services/ORS

ISBE Staff
Elizabeth Hanselman, Assistant Superintendent, Specialized Instruction Nutrition and Wellness
David Andel, Division Administrator, Special Education Services
Kathy Stratton, Program Specialist, Special Education Services
Mary Long, Program Specialist, Special Education Services

Other Representative
## Committees

### Standing Committees
- Executive Committee
- Access
- Comprehensive State Plan
- General Supervision/Due Process
- Finance
- Legislation/Interagency Communications
- Family Communications
- Rules and Regulations
- Bilingual Special Education
- Personnel Development
- Transition
- Communications Committee

### Ad-Hoc Committees
- Twice Exceptionality-Gifted
- By-Laws Committee
- Nominating Committee
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>MEETINGS</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, October 1, 2012</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Transition Update</td>
<td>Telephone Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 3, 2012</td>
<td>2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Committee of the Whole</td>
<td>ISBE – Springfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 4, 2012</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Business Meeting</td>
<td>Hope Institute – Springfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, November 7, 2012</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
<td>Telephone Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 8, 2012</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>Telephone Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 5, 2012</td>
<td>2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Committee of the Whole</td>
<td>ISBE - Springfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 6, 2012</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Business Meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 8, 2013</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>Telephone Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 6, 2013</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Joint ICC/ISAC Meeting</td>
<td>ISBE - Springfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 6, 2013</td>
<td>2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Committee of the Whole</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 7, 2013</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Business Meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 5, 2013</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>Telephone Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 17, 2013</td>
<td>2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Committee of the Whole</td>
<td>ISBE - Springfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 18, 2013</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Business Meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 7, 2013</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>Telephone Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, June 5, 2013</td>
<td>2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Committee of the Whole</td>
<td>Eisenhower Cooperative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, June 6, 2013</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Business Meeting</td>
<td>5318 West 135th Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Crestwood, IL 60445</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public participation is invited during the business meetings. Reasonable accommodations are available upon request. Individuals requiring special accommodations should contact the Illinois State Board of Education (voice: 217/782-5589 and TTY: 217/782-1900) at least one week prior to the meeting date to allow time for making accommodations.
Critical Issues Identified for Discussion

The Council identified the following as priorities for discussion in 2012-2013:

- Special Education Finance
- Response to Intervention
- State Improvement Plan Progress
- Bilingual concerns
- Transition
- Post Secondary Outcomes
- Due Process
- Increased funding for special education
- Continuous Improvement Plan
- Legislation Relevant to Special Education
- Council Membership
Council Minutes

Copies of approved minutes of the Council meetings from October 4, 2012 through June 6, 2013 are available at the links given below. Individuals having difficulty accessing the minutes are asked to contact Mary Long at: 217/782-5589 (Voice), 217/782-1900 (TTY), or 217/782-0372 (fax).

October 4, 2012


December 6, 2012


February 7, 2013


April 18, 2013


June 6, 2013

Public Participation

The Council provides an opportunity for public participation at every business meeting. During this period of time, participants sign in and are provided five minutes to address the various issues and concerns they have.
Council Actions

October 4, 2012

1. Motion carried that the document from the United States Department of Education on the Least Restrictive Environment applies to transition be placed on the ISBE website under Special Education – Transition topics & Least Restrictive.

2. Motion carried that the November 6, 2012 Executive Committee meeting be moved to November 5, 2012 since November 6, 2012 is a state holiday.

December 6, 2012

1. Motion carried that “ISAC recommends ISBE adopt Option 1 for Indicator 6A and 6B; 32.3% and 31.1% as proposed targets.”

2. Motion carried that “ISAC approve the letter and testimony that was presented to the Finance and Budget Committee.

3. Motion carried that “ISBE endorses Dynamic Learning MAPS as the consortium for Alternate Assessments in Illinois.

February 7, 2013

1. Motion carried that “Pursuant to Section 2(c)(15) of the Open Meetings Act and Section 14-8.02c of the Illinois School Code, that ISAC go into closed session for the purpose of reviewing the recommendations made by the Due Process Screening Committee pertaining to the appointments of new Due Process Hearing Officers at its meeting held on February 5, 2013. Included in the motion was that Vicky Simpson with the Due Process Screening Committee and Andy Eulass, ISBE Due Process Coordinator, be included in the closed session.

2. Motion carried that “ISAC having completed its review of the recommendations of the Due Process Screening Committee for the appointment of new Due Process Hearing Officers, I move that ISAC end the closed session in order to take final action on the recommendations of the Screening Committee made at its meeting held on February 5, 2013.” The group came out of closed session at 10:15 a.m.

3. Motion carried that “ISAC send a letter to the Governor in support of the ISBE FY14 budget request, specifically we appreciate the Boards request to fully fund the Special Education Mandated Categoricals and we strongly encourage the Governor to encourage that Illinois meets the maintenance of efforts numbers necessary to receive maximum Federal funding for students with disabilities.

4. Motion carried that “ISAC adopt the recommendations of the Due process Screening Committee regarding Hearing Officers.

5. Motion carried that “ISAC accept ISBE’s proposal to remove the 70/30 guideline in general education classes.” Motion failed on a 4-9 Roll Call vote.

6. Motion carried that “While ISAC cannot at this time agree with abolishing the 70/30 number, we would like conversation to continue on this subject to find a plan that is equitable to everyone. A letter to this effect will be presented to the State Board.
April 18, 2013

1. Motion carried that ISAC send a letter to ISBE requesting the agency approve McLean County Unit District #5 from Mackinaw Valley Special Education Association and that as they withdraw they ensure all related staff such as an O.T., P.T. and an Autism specialist are in place to provide the needed services to the students in the district.

2. Motion carried that ISAC send a letter to ISBE requesting the agency approve River Forest District 90 withdraw from the Federation of Districts of Special Education.

3. Motion carried that ISAC send a letter to ISBE requesting the agency approve J.S. Morton High School District 201 from the Federation of Districts of Special Education and that as they withdraw they look at a plan to include more students with intellectual disabilities in the general education curriculum.

4. Motion carried that ISAC send a letter to ISBE requesting the agency approve North Berwyn School District 98 from the Federation of Districts of Special Education.

5. Motion carried that ISAC send a letter to ISBE requesting the agency approve Forest Park School District 91 from the Federation of Districts of Special Education.

6. Motion carried that ISAC send a letter to ISBE requesting the agency approve Cicero School District 99 from the Federation of Districts of Special Education and that as they withdraw they look at a plan to include more students with emotional disabilities in the regular curriculum.

7. Motion carried that ISAC send a letter to ISBE requesting the agency approve Berwyn South District 100 from the Federation of Districts of Special Education.

8. Motion carried that ISAC send a letter to ISBE requesting the agency approve Hinsdale Township High School District 86 from the LADSE and that as they withdraw they ensure they have a bilingual education plan in place.

9. Motion carried that ISAC write a letter to ISBE regarding PARCC accommodations to ensure students with IEP’s who are ELL have full access to appropriate accommodations.

10. Motion carried that ISAC accept the Annual Report that ISAC completes and submits to ISBE, the General Assembly and other interested parties.

11. Motion carried that ISAC write a letter to ISBE to maintain the current class size set forth in the Part 226 rules keeping in effect the teacher/student ratio established in the current Part 226 rules and ensure the letter is entered into public comment.

12. Motion carried that SAC submit public comment in response to ISBE's request regarding repeal of Section 226.730(a). We request that the content of the comment include the following points: 1) we acknowledge there are logistical and practical constraints imposed by the current rules, 2) we cannot support the rule's repeal and 3) we urge ISBE to respond with a plan developed in collaboration with stakeholders to address the issues.
June 6, 2013

1. Motion carried ISAC go into closed session Pursuant to Section 2(c)(15) of the Open Meetings Act and Section 14-8.02c of the Illinois School Code for the purpose of reviewing the recommendations made by the Due Process Screening Committee pertaining to the reappointments of the Due Process Hearing Officers for the period from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

2. Motion carried ISAC come out of closed session having completed its review of the recommendations of the Due Process Screening Committee for the reappointment of the Due Process Hearing Officers, ISAC end the closed session in order to take final action on the recommendations of the Screening Committee for the appointment of the Due Process Hearing Officers for the period from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

The Due Process Hearing Officers are:

1. Ann Breen-Greco
2. Beatriz Diaz-Pollack
3. Deborah Frank Feinen
4. Patricia Marino
5. Phil Milsk
6. Michael Risen
7. Mary Schwartz
8. Joseph Selbka
9. David Utley
Barriers to Success:

1. ISAC struggles to continue to operate due to lack of Appointments by the Governor to the Council.
2. There is inadequate economic support to school districts to implement the mandates of IDEA04 and NCLB. The level of services and the quality of services available to Illinois school age children who have disabilities is significantly uneven throughout the state. A fair and equitable formula which would improve the ability of some smaller and rural districts to cope with the mandates resulting from IDEA04 and NCLB, is imperative. Programs to train those “highly qualified” teachers mandated by NCLB are victims of this inadequate funding.
3. Staffing levels within the Department of Special Education at ISBE remain inadequate to meet the educational needs of students with disabilities, families, school personnel and ISAC.
4. ISAC is often requested to provide advice on special education matters without adequate time to meet, evaluate, discuss and make recommendations.

Accomplishments

During the period covered by this report, ISAC has accomplished the following:

1. ISAC gave Public Comment on the Part 226 Rules
2. The ISAC Communications Committee created and distributed a Newsletter to stakeholder groups twice this year. Included were General Assembly Members, educators, and parents of children with a disability.
3. ISAC members were active participants in the planning and organizing of the State Transition Conference.
4. The ISAC Transition Committee spearheaded a statewide stakeholder group that is working to champion transitioning across the state.
5. Participation of the Due Process Committee in the development of the Facilitated IEP Program.
6. ISAC had a representative present at the ISBE Budget Hearings held around the state.
7. ISAC hosted a Legislative Breakfast in the Rotunda of the Capitol Building with special education students from schools across the state greeting the legislators, preparing and serving the breakfast.
8. The ISAC reviewed eight Comprehensive Plans for withdrawal:
9. ISAC continued to review the Comprehensive Plans as requested.
11. Participation in the development of the Facilitated IEP Program.
Appendices
Appendix A: Presentation to State Board of Education Finance and Audit Committee
FY 2014 Budget Hearing

I am here on behalf of the Illinois State Advisory Council For the Education of Children with Disabilities (ISAC). ISAC is responsible for advising the State Board of Education as well as the Governor and Legislature on Special Education in the state of Illinois. ISAC’s mandate is to ensure appropriate special education services are provided to all students in Illinois. Our purpose today is to advocate for students by requesting that funding for Special Education be a priority for FY 2014.

Students with disabilities have numerous barriers to success, however when special education students live in poverty these barriers are exacerbated. Empirically based research indicates poverty has a significant impact on the effects of a child’s education. The child who has both a disability and lives in poverty has even greater needs than the child who does not. Improving the educational outcomes for students from economically disadvantaged households and children with disabilities has been a priority for federal and state educational agencies notably since the Supreme Court’s 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision to end racial segregation in schools. Federal policy writers furthered the fight for the provision of equity with aggressive legislation such as the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). These landmark Acts were designed to improve educational opportunities for the economically disadvantaged children as well as children with disabilities. Federal policies were developed with the notion that no child should experience educational deprivation in the school, supporting the nationally believed notion that education is the constitutional right of every child.


The court adopted the principal of fiscal neutrality—that is, equal opportunity—that the level of resources available should not be a function of wealth, other than the wealth of the state as a whole. This opinion found that the state has a constitutional obligation to equalize the value of the taxable wealth in each district, so that equal tax efforts will yield equal resources (p. 58).

The quality of a child’s education cannot be diminished because of a child’s disability nor a result of local wealth. Instead, one should find educational funding is a result of the state as a whole. State funding, as argued litigiously and supported by court findings, should be wealth neutral, providing equal educational opportunity for all children not equal distribution of state funds. The provision of equitable resources to all children supports the nationally recognized notion that all children of the state are equally important (emphasis added) and are entitled to the same advantages.

To this end the ISAC respectfully request the SBE consider the needs of children with disabilities who live in poverty as a priority for the 2014 Budget.

As requested by the SBE Finance Committee we have outlined the anticipated Outcomes, Measures for Attainment, Value the program adds, and Historical outcomes of past spending.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes: What outcomes will the funding allotment achieve?</th>
<th>Reduction in Due Process Hearings whereby reducing local costs for education.</th>
<th>High School Completion for Children receiving special education services</th>
<th>High School Drop Out Rate for Children receiving special education services</th>
<th>Performance on State Achievement Tests for children receiving special education services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Measures: What</td>
<td>Annual Data</td>
<td>Annual Data</td>
<td>Annual Data</td>
<td>Annual Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>are the measurable results of these outcomes?</td>
<td>Value: what is the value of the outcomes?</td>
<td>Historical: What outcomes have</td>
<td>Additional Data for Consideration:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection</td>
<td>Estimated cost of one 5 day Due Process Hearing to a School District is $40,000. (Yell, 2011-National School Board Association)</td>
<td>Research indicates that average income directly correlates to income power. (Illinois Task Force on Re-Enrolling Drop Out Youth-2010)</td>
<td>Historically Special education expenditures have increased at a slower rate than general education expenditures. From 1977 and 1999 per pupil expenditures for children receiving special education services increased by 42% while General Education per pupil expenditure increase 47% between 1977 and 1999. (Parrish, et.al, 2004)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Collection                                  | Increase in skilled work force, reduction in need for lifelong state support, etc. (Andrew, et.al, 2007) | Increase in student learning leads to positive post secondary outcomes and positive social change. (Illinois Work Force Development, 2007) | }
Respectfully Submitted on Behalf of the Illinois State Advisor Council by, Heath Brosseau and Mike Otte
TESTIMONY TO THE ILLINOIS STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

This testimony is provided on behalf of the Illinois State Advisory Council (ISAC) on the Education of Children with Disabilities. The ISAC is responsible for advising the State Board of Education as well as the Governor and Legislature on Special Education in the state of Illinois. ISAC’s mandate is to ensure appropriate special education services are provided to all students in Illinois.

The Illinois State Board of Education has posed three questions to which they have requested advocacy groups to respond.

Question #1: Should ISBE continue to prioritize General State Aid (GSA) and mandated categoricals?

State aid to school districts consists of GSA funds that support the districts’ foundation levels, as well as funding for mandated categoricals, which are the legally mandated services such as Illinois Free Lunch/Breakfast; Orphanage Tuition; Special Education for Students Requiring Services; Personnel Reimbursement; Private Tuition; Summer School; Transportation for regular and special education. GSA and mandated categoricals are funded through both state General Revenue Funds and through federal funds provided through grants to the State from the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Yes, ISBE should continue to prioritize GSA and mandated categoricals. We also believe it is important to point out that the funding the school districts receive for mandated categoricals is reimbursement for costs the districts have already incurred. It was brought to our attention that school districts were informed that they would only receive one of the four payments due to them in this fiscal year. We want to strongly encourage ISBE, the Legislature, and the Governor to elevate the priority given to special education funding and reimbursement to our school districts.

Question #2: What actions should the State take to ensure timely payments to school districts?

The Executive and Legislative branches are responsible for any response to this situation, since they are authorized to raise revenues, and they are responsible for the State budget process. We recommend that the State strongly encourage the Federal Government to increase federal funding to required IDEA levels. As a part of the IDEA 2004 reauthorization, Congress committed toshouldering 40 percent of the excess cost of educating students with disabilities. That obligation has never been honored, and it is estimated that the federal government’s current share of special education costs is less than half of what was originally promised.

Question #3: Should the State impose cost savings due to the reduced federal funds or leave cuts to the discretion of the local districts?

No, we are not in support of the State imposing cost savings on to districts. Instead we recommend that the State look at all existing and possibly new funding avenues to help them to meet their obligations. For FY-2011, Illinois will receive an additional $415 million from the Education Jobs Fund bill, which is federal legislation. It is possible that the State could use these funds to supplant existing funds for personnel in order to meet its budget targets.
In conclusion the ISAC recommends the following regarding the FY-2011 ISBE Budget:

- Fully fund Mandated Categoricals
- Give priority to education funding in the budget process
- Mandate that reimbursement occur in a timely manner
- Develop a plan to incrementally increase special education personnel reimbursement
- Utilize Education Job Funds to increase personnel reimbursement
- The State should strongly encourage the Federal Government to increase federal funding to required IDEA levels.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Otte
Chairperson, Finance Committee
Illinois State Advisory Council
for the Education of Students with Disabilities
Dear Governor Quinn:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities (ISAC). ISAC is responsible for advising the State Board of Education as well as the Governor and Legislature on Special Education in the state of Illinois. ISAC’s mandate is to ensure appropriate special education services are provided to all students in Illinois. My purpose today is to advocate for students by requesting that strong consideration be given to the ISBE budget proposed by Superintendent Dr. Christopher Koch for Education in general, but more specifically for Special Education.

The ISAC would like to commend Dr. Koch for budgeting to fully fund mandated categoricals. If school districts are expected to provide free and appropriate public education services in the least restrictive environment for all children with disabilities including those with the most intensive needs, the State of Illinois must look for ways to adequately and equitably fund all mandated categoricals. On behalf of the ISAC I urge your support for full funding of mandated Special Education categoricals for the FY 2014 and into the future.

Furthermore I encourage you to ensure that Illinois meet the maintenance of efforts numbers necessary to receive maximum federal funding for students with disabilities.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please do what is best for children with disabilities and adopt the proposed ISBE budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Otte
Illinois State Advisory Committee
Finance Committee Chairperson
Appendix D: Proposed Changes to Special Education Rules (23 Ill. Adm. Code 226)

October 7, 2012

To: State Board of Education


Subject: Proposed Changes to Special Education Rules (23 Ill. Adm. Code 226)

The Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities (ISAC) is mandated by law to comment publicly on proposed State and Federal rules. ISAC’s members represent a wide variety of stakeholders, including educators, administrators, parents, individuals with disabilities, and state agency representatives.

The ISAC voted on October 3, 2013 that the Chair send a letter requesting that two members of the ISAC participate in the discussion group recommended by Chairman Chico and formed by ISBE regarding the the proposed Rule changes set forth in Title 23 Part 226 Sections 226.730 and 226.731. Rick Rameriz and Suzanne Lee have both expressed an interest in being a part of these discussions recommending the ISAC.

Thank you,

Dr. Elizabeth Conran Ed.D.

Dr. Elizabeth Conran Ed.D.

ISAC Chair
April 20, 2013

Dear Dr. Ferguson,

The Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities (ISAC) is statutorily created by Section 14-3.01 of the School Code of Illinois. The purpose of the Council includes advice to the State Board of Education regarding modifications or additions to county or regional comprehensive plans. To this end, I write regarding the Comprehensive Withdraw Plan of the McLean County Unit District 5.

The ISAC Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee reviewed the Comprehensive Plan and reported the summary to the Council on April 18, 2013. On this date, a presentation and question/answer period was held with the Cooperative personnel. During the meeting, the Special Education Director and other stakeholders were given an opportunity to address the Council relative to withdraw.

On April 19, 2013 the ISAC carried a motion to recommend that ISBE approve that McLean County Unit District 5 be allowed to withdraw from the Mackinaw Valley Special Education Association.

Respectfully,

Susy Woods
Committee Chair: Comprehensive Planning Committee
April 20, 2013

Dear Dr. Ferguson,

The Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities (ISAC) is statutorily created by Section 14-3.01 of the School Code of Illinois. The purpose of the Council includes advice to the State Board of Education regarding modifications or additions to county or regional comprehensive plans. To this end, I write regarding the Comprehensive Withdraw Plan of the River Forest School District 90.

The ISAC Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee reviewed the Comprehensive Plan and reported the summary to the Council on April 18, 2013. On this date, a presentation and question/answer period was held with the Cooperative personnel During the meeting the Special Education Director and other stakeholders were given an opportunity to address the Council relative to withdraw.

On April 19, 2013 the ISAC carried a motion to recommend that ISBE approve that River Forest School District 90 be allowed to withdraw from the co-op they are currently affiliated with.

Respectfully,

Susy Woods
Committee Chair: Comprehensive Planning Committee
Appendix G: Letter to ISBE JS Morton Comprehensive Plan for Withdraw

April 20, 2013

Dear Dr. Ferguson,

The Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities (ISAC) is statutorily created by Section 14-3.01 of the School Code of Illinois. The purpose of the Council includes advice to the State Board of Education regarding modifications or additions to county or regional comprehensive plans. To this end, I write regarding the Comprehensive Withdraw J.S. Morton High School District 201.

The ISAC Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee reviewed the Comprehensive Plan and reported the summary to the Council on April 18, 2013. On this date, a presentation and question/answer period was held with the Cooperative personnel During the meeting the Special Education Director and other stakeholders were given an opportunity to address the Council relative to withdraw.

On April 19, 2013 the ISAC carried a motion to recommend that ISBE approve that J.S. Morton High School District 201 be allowed to withdraw from the co-op they are currently affiliated with.

Respectfully,

Susy Woods
Committee Chair: Comprehensive Planning Committee
Dear Dr. Ferguson,

The Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities (ISAC) is statutorily created by Section 14-3.01 of the School Code of Illinois. The purpose of the Council includes advice to the State Board of Education regarding modifications or additions to county or regional comprehensive plans. To this end, I write regarding the Comprehensive Withdraw Plan of the Berwyn North School District 98.

The ISAC Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee reviewed the Comprehensive Plan and reported the summary to the Council on April 18, 2013. On this date, a presentation and question/answer period was held with the Cooperative personnel. During the meeting the Special Education Director and other stakeholders were given an opportunity to address the Council relative to withdraw.

On April 19, 2013 the ISAC carried a motion to recommend that ISBE approve that Berwyn North School District 98 be allowed to withdraw from the co-op they are currently affiliated with.

Respectfully,

Susy Woods
Committee Chair: Comprehensive Planning Committee
April 20, 2013

Dear Dr. Ferguson,

The Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities (ISAC) is statutorily created by Section 14-3.01 of the School Code of Illinois. The purpose of the Council includes advice to the State Board of Education regarding modifications or additions to county or regional comprehensive plans. To this end, I write regarding the Comprehensive Withdraw Plan of the Forest Park School District 91.

The ISAC Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee reviewed the Comprehensive Plan and reported the summary to the Council on April 18, 2013. On this date, a presentation and question/answer period was held with the Cooperative personnel. During the meeting, the Special Education Director and other stakeholders were given an opportunity to address the Council relative to withdraw.

On April 19, 2013 the ISAC carried a motion to recommend that ISBE approve that Forest Park School District 91 be allowed to withdraw from the co-op they are currently affiliated with.

Respectfully,

Susy Woods
Committee Chair: Comprehensive Planning Committee
Appendix J: Letter to ISBE Cicero Comprehensive Plan for Withdraw

April 20, 2013

Dear Dr. Ferguson,

The Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities (ISAC) is statutorily created by Section 14-3.01 of the School Code of Illinois. The purpose of the Council includes advice to the State Board of Education regarding modifications or additions to county or regional comprehensive plans. To this end, I write regarding the Comprehensive Withdraw Plan of the Cicero School District 99.

The ISAC Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee reviewed the Comprehensive Plan and reported the summary to the Council on April 18, 2013. On this date, a presentation and question/answer period was held with the Cooperative personnel. During the meeting the Special Education Director and other stakeholders were given an opportunity to address the Council relative to withdraw.

On April 19, 2013 the ISAC carried a motion to recommend that ISBE approve that Cicero School District 99 be allowed to withdraw from the co-op they are currently affiliated with.

Respectfully,

Susy Woods
Committee Chair: Comprehensive Planning Committee
April 20, 2013

Dear Dr. Ferguson,

The Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities (ISAC) is statutorily created by Section 14-3.01 of the School Code of Illinois. The purpose of the Council includes advice to the State Board of Education regarding modifications or additions to county or regional comprehensive plans. To this end, I write regarding the Comprehensive Withdraw Plan of the Berwyn South School District 100.

The ISAC Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee reviewed the Comprehensive Plan and reported the summary to the Council on April 18, 2013. On this date, a presentation and question/answer period was held with the Cooperative personnel. During the meeting, the Special Education Director and other stakeholders were given an opportunity to address the Council relative to withdraw.

On April 19, 2013 the ISAC carried a motion to recommend that ISBE approve that Berwyn South School District 100 be allowed to withdraw from the co-op they are currently affiliated with.

Respectfully,

Susy Woods
Committee Chair: Comprehensive Planning Committee
April 20, 2013

Dear Dr. Ferguson,

The Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities (ISAC) is statutorily created by Section 14-3.01 of the School Code of Illinois. The purpose of the Council includes advice to the State Board of Education regarding modifications or additions to county or regional comprehensive plans. To this end, I write regarding the Comprehensive Withdraw Plan of the Hinsdale Township High School District 86.

The ISAC Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee reviewed the Comprehensive Plan and reported the summary to the Council on April 18, 2013. On this date, a presentation and question/answer period was held with the Cooperative personnel. During the meeting, the Special Education Director and other stakeholders were given an opportunity to address the Council relative to withdraw.

On April 19, 2013 the ISAC carried a motion to recommend that ISBE approve that Hinsdale Township High School District 86 be allowed to withdraw from the co-op they are currently affiliated with.

Respectfully,

Susy Woods
Committee Chair: Comprehensive Planning Committee
Appendix M: Letter to ISBE Class Size

To: Rules State Board of Education

Subject: Proposed Changes to Special Education Rules (23 Ill. Adm. Code 226)

The Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities (ISAC) is mandated by law to comment publicly on proposed State and Federal rules. ISAC’s members represent a wide variety of stakeholders, including educators, administrators, parents, individuals with disabilities, and state agency representatives.

On April 18, 2013 the ISAC carried a motion to provide written public comment to ISBE Rules regarding the proposed changes the Rules Section 226.270 and 226.731. ISAC recommends that ISBE maintain the current class size set forth in the Part 226 rules keeping in effect the current teacher/student ratio.

ISAC,

• acknowledges there are logistical and practical constraints imposed by the current rules,
• cannot support the rule's repeal and
• urge ISBE to respond with a plan developed in collaboration with stakeholders to address the issues.