

**Illinois State Advisory Council
on the Education
of Children with Disabilities**



Annual Report 2002-2003

DATE: July 1, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: William Kienzle, Chair
Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education
of Children with Disabilities

SUBJECT: Annual Report for 2002-2003

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 2002-2003 sessions.

Although ISAC has lacked timely appointments and re-appointments to the Council, its members represent most of the geographic regions in the state of Illinois. Members represent parents of children with disabilities, people with disabilities, educators, governmental service providers, and a member at-large. ISAC committees include Executive, Bilingual, Comprehensive State Plan, General Supervision/Due Process, Family Communications, Finance, Legislation, Personnel Development, and Rules and Regulations.

ISAC has also been very active in the implementation of the Illinois's Continuous State Improvement Plan required by the U. S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). The Council has provided legislative testimonies, public comment on proposed rules and regulation changes, analyzed effects on the students with disabilities regarding the No Child Left Behind initiative, addressed the critical shortage of teachers in special education, the lack of funding to provide adequate special education services, and Illinois' progress regarding teaching children in the least restrictive environment.

ISAC appreciates your support in making a free and appropriate public education a reality for all students in Illinois. Thank you for your continued attention to maintaining the level of services necessary to sustain every student in reaching his or her IEP 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.

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- Appendix C: Letter requesting: (1) addition of an ISAC member to the Assessment and Accountability Task Force, and (2) continued support for the portfolio format of alternate assessment
- Appendix D: Comments on the rules changes for 226.540, 226.610 and 226.770
- Appendix E: Comments on the Illinois Alternate Assessment revisions
- Appendix F: Letter of support for HB 1180

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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,
 - 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 four (4) ex-officio voting members and twenty-three (23) persons appointed by the Governor:

*Governor
Appointed*

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

- PAMELA CALDWELL, Chicago
- THERESE DEVINE, Orland Park
- NANCY GRANT, Charleston
- WILLIAM KIENZLE, Chatham
- NORMA LOPEZ-REYNA, Chicago
- SUE OUELLETTE, DeKalb
- VACANT
- VACANT
- VACANT

Five 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.

- CATHY CONTARINO, Alton
- JAMES McGOVERN, Schaumburg
- VACANT (individual with a disability)
- VACANT (individual with a disability)
- VACANT (student representative)

One regional superintendent of schools
HELEN TOLAN, Springfield

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

One teacher of students with disabilities
JAN CLEVELAND, Crossville

One superintendent of a public school district
DONALD FRAILEY, Robinson

One director of special education cooperative or special education
administrator from a school district of less than 500,000 population.
AMY KRUPPE, Morton Grove

One representative of a public charter school
VACANT

One representative of a private school serving children with disabilities
VACANT

One representative of a vocational, community, or business organization
that provides transition services to children with disabilities
MARY ELLEN ABELL, Carterville

One at-large member from the general public
WILLARD WALLACE, Bethalto

Ex-Officio Members SUE GAMM, Chicago Public Schools District 299
JIMMY GUNNELL, Department of Corrections
DWIGHT LAMBERT, Department of Children and Family Services
MARJORIE OLSON, Department of Human Services/ORS

ISBE Staff Kathryn Cox, Division Administrator, Special Education Services
Patricia Koch, Principal Consultant, Special Education Services
Cathy Pavolko, Private Secretary, Department of Special Education
Jack Shook, Division Administrator, Special Education Services
Anthony Sims, Manager, Department of Special Education
Christopher Koch, Director of Special Education

Committees

Standing Committees

Executive Committee
 Comprehensive State Plan
 General Supervision
 Finance
 Legislation/Interagency Communications
 Family Communications
 Rules and Regulations
 Bilingual Special Education
 Personnel Development
 Site and Access Committee

Ad-Hoc Committees

By-Laws
 State Improvement Plan
 ISAC Annual Report

Council Meeting Schedule 2002-2003

September 12, 2002	2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Committee of the Whole	Hilton Hotel, Springfield
September 13, 2002	9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Business Meeting	
November 7, 2002	2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Committee of the Whole	Hyatt at University Village, Chicago
November 8, 2002	9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Business Meeting	
February 6, 2003	2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Committee of the Whole	Holiday Inn, Normal
February 7, 2003	9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Business Meeting	
April 3, 2003	2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Committee of the Whole	Drury Inn & Suites, Springfield
April 4, 2003	9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Business Meeting	
June 12, 2003	2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Committee of the Whole	John A. Logan College, Carterville
June 13, 2003	9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Business Meeting	

Critical Issues Identified for Discussion

The Council identified the following as critical issues for discussion in 2002-2003:

- Illinois Continuous Improvement Plan
- Alternate Assessment
- Special Education Funding
- Teacher Shortages
- Monitoring of ISBE compliance with Corey H.
- Changes in and staffing of the Special Education Center
- Comprehensive State Plans
- IDEA Reauthorization
- Transition Services
- Federal grant proposals submitted by ISBE
- School Code revision (Article 14)
- ISBE Biennial Performance Report for Part B of IDEA
- Illinois State Improvement Grant
- Legislation affecting special education
- Evaluation of Illinois due process procedures
- Hearing Officer Education Network
- Higher education institutions and teacher/personnel preparation

September 12-13, 2002

- The Council heard an updated presentation from Randy Burge on the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and IDEA reauthorization.
- The Council heard a presentation from Sally Vogl on the Director of Special Education Endorsement Draft Rules.
- The Council heard a presentation from staff of the Illinois Transition Consortium on transition activities.
- The Council heard presentations from ISBE staff on: the Due Process Annual Report, ISAC Annual Report, Biennial Performance Report, SIG Supplemental Application, School Code Revisions, Education Funding Advisory Board, General Supervision Enhancement Grant, Corey H. Update, Mediation System Update, Continuous Improvement Plan, Alternate Assessment, and proposed rule changes.
- The Council heard a presentation from Phil Milsk regarding advocates representing parents at due process and mediation meetings.

November 7-8, 2002

- The Committee of the Whole heard a presentation by member Don Frailey on Special Education Finance.

- The Committee of the Whole heard a presentation from Gail Lieberman and Merv Brennan on Student Assessment; including the Assessment & Accountability Task Force and IAA Reporting and NCLB Requirements.
- The Committee of the Whole heard a presentation from ISBE staff on IDEA Reauthorization; including the President's Commission Report and the IDEA Paperwork Reduction Act.
- The Council heard a presentation from ISBE staff on Corey H., the Continuous Improvement Plan and ISAC's Role/Direction, the Special Education Department Structure and Staff Shortages, SIG Supplemental Grant Award, and a Parent Training Update.
- The Council heard a presentation from staff of the Illinois Transition Consortium on transition activities.
- The Council heard a presentation from Carolyn Cochran Kopel on the status of the Part C Continuous Improvement Plan.
- The Council heard a presentation from Will County School District #92 and Homer Community Consolidated School District #33C for Withdrawal from Lockport Area Special Education Cooperative.

February 6-7, 2003

- The Council heard presentations on Withdrawals from Special Education Cooperatives/Comprehensive Plans from:

Darcy Kriha	Plainfield Community Consolidated District 202
John Relias	Oak Park & River Forest District 200
Bob Zanello	Addison School District 4
Michael McCollum & William Schewe:	School Association for Special Education in DuPage
Marion Hoyda	Lockport High School District 205
David School:	Will County District 92 Homer School District 33C
- The Council heard presentations from ISBE staff on the Illinois Alternate Assessment Subcommittee, the OSEP Monitoring Report/Illinois Continuous Improvement Plan, and a State Improvement Grant update.
- The Council heard a presentation from Gary Lieder on the Finance Funding Formula Legislation (HB 1180).

April 3-4, 2003

- The Council heard a presentation from Gail Lieberman and Sue Ireland on Alternate Assessment and Title 1 Proposed Alternate Assessment Regulations.
- The Council heard a presentation from ISBE staff on changes in the Department of Special Education, the Revised Continuous Improvement Plan for Part B, Family Ties update, legislative update, a LEASE letter and IDEA Reauthorization.

June 12-13, 2003

- Council members heard a presentation from Brad Colwell and Tom Britton of the Due Process Training Entity.
- The Council heard a presentation from ISBE staff on actions to be taken by the State Board of Education at their June meeting, changes in the Department of Special Education, the 2003 Directors of Special Education Conference, the OSEP Leadership Conference, and updates on legislation, rules, and mediation.
- Council members heard a presentation from Marty Ricconi from LaSalle/Putnam County Education Alliance for Special Education (LEASE) and Conrad Spurrison from Deer Park School District #292 on revising the Class Size/Case Load requirements.
- Council members reviewed a draft version of the ISAC 2002-2003 Annual Report
- Council members discussed a future New Member Orientation and Council Retreat when new members are appointed.
- Certificates of Appreciation were presented to members who completed their term of membership on the Council: Nancy Grant, Cathy Contarino, Willard Wallace and Sue Ouellette.

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 present the various issues and concerns they have.

Council Actions

September 13, 2002

- The Council approved finance chairman Don Frailey providing testimony to the Education Funding Advisory Board on behalf of the Council.
- The Council approved a resolution to increase the involvement of parents of children with disabilities in the educational process as stated in Goal 4 of the continuous improvement plan.
- The Council approved a letter to the Governor indicating the importance for appointments being made in order to fulfill its mandated responsibilities.

November 8, 2002

- The Council provided public comment on the rule modifications of Part 226, which stated it does not support the amendments to Part 226.540, 226.620, and 226.770
- The Council approved a letter be sent to the Governor's office, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Board of Higher Education, Senator Larry Woolard

and the House of Representatives' Education Committee supporting the need for changes to teacher preparation and employment practices.

- The Council recognized and applauded fellow ISAC member Helen Tolan for her re-election to the position of Regional Superintendent of Schools for Sangamon County.

February 7, 2003

- The Council approved the proposal promulgated by IAASE regarding a special education funding formula be referred to the Finance Committee and any interested ISAC members for evaluation and that a report be made at the April Business meeting.
- The Council approved an ad-hoc committee contact the legislature with concern to fill current vacancies and make reappointments. The ad-hoc committee will develop a pool of names for submission to the Governor's office. Committee members are: Chair, Marj Olson; Mary Ellen Abell, Cathy Contarino, Pam Caldwell and Bill Kienzle.
- The Council approved the nomination of Therese Devine as Vice-Chair of the Council, replacing Mr. Dagley.
- The Council approved the comprehensive plans for: Lockport High School District 205, Will County District 92, Homer School District 33C, School Association for Special Education in DuPage, and Plainfield Community Consolidated District 202.
- The Council approved the following comprehensive plans pending approval from the Regional, Board of Trustees: Addition District #4 and Oak Park/River Forest District 200.
- The Council supported portfolio-based assessment for the IAA and approved submitting a letter to the IAA subcommittee of the Accountability Task Force stating this position.
- The Council recommended the Comprehensive State Plan Committee review the existing Procedures for Withdrawal of a School District from a Special Education Joint Agreement formed under 105 ILCS 5/10-22.31.
- The Council honored ISBE staff members Jack Shook, Bobbie Reguly and Jan Tanner on their retirement.
- The Council expressed appreciation to Myron Dagley at the completion of his term.

April 4, 2003

- The Council approved the revised Illinois Continuous Improvement Plan (Part B) dated February 27, 2003.
- The Council assigned the proposed rules for general education standards for special education teachers to the ISAC rules committee for review and comment prior to the close of the public comment period.
- The Council assigned the General Supervision/Due Process Committee the responsibility of analyzing the Archer Study and making recommendations to the Council at the June meeting.

- The Council assigned the Comprehensive State Plan Committee to develop an expedited review process for districts to withdraw from special education cooperatives.
- The Council assigned Bill Kienzle and Don Frailey to develop a strategy that alerts and enlightens the news media, the public, and the legislature regarding the financial shortfalls of special education findings and enlist support for HB 1180.
- The Council approved by acclamation the nominations of Bill Kienzle as Chair and Mary Ellen Abell as Vice-Chair for the 2003-2004 term.
- The Council assigned the Legislative/Interagency Communication Committee to monitor activities related to the reauthorization of IDEA and provide recommendations for action.
- The Council approved requesting Superintendent Schiller to publicly connect the academic and social benefits of students with disabilities with their non-disabled peers in regular education classes to the high standards of accountability and expectations of NCLB and IDEA.

June 13, 2002

- The Council approved the review by the Comprehensive State Plan Committee of current procedures to bring forth recommendations for change in the comprehensive state plan process to the Council.
- The Council approved accepting the following three recommendations of the General Supervision/Due Process Committee: 1) ISBE develop an RFP for a researcher to review the 2000-2001 mediation outcomes, as well as the resolutions of due process cases that did not go to hearing, and to provide an analysis of that data, including a data base as a source for data collection for parents and districts to self-report for on-going review 2) Pursuant to the Continuous Improvement Plan, ISBE compile detailed data about all cases that are part of the compliance system (complaints, mediation, all due process cases, not just those that go to hearing and decision.), and 3) ISAC recommend to the Senate that IDEA should not be changed in any way to diminish rights of parental participation, parental access to attorney representation and attorney fee recovery; and, that a letter be sent to Superintendent Schiller and the Illinois State Board of Education.
- The Council approved a follow-up letter be sent to the Governor to support the signing of HB 1180.
- The Council approved requesting ISBE to appoint a task force to study class size and case load. The constituency should include ISAC, special educators, directors of special education, directors of regular education, superintendents of regular education, parents, ISBE, representatives of the parent training and information centers, higher education, including but not limited to and a geographical cross section. They further requested that any recommendations promulgated by this task force be submitted to ISAC for final comments prior to implementation.
- The Council approved the following meeting dates for 2003-2004.
 - September 11-12, 2003 in Springfield
 - November 13-14, 2003 in Carterville

***Other ISAC
Activities***

- Provided comments on the proposed Speech/Language rule changes (Appendix A).
- Provided a letter of support for submission of the application for Supplement to State Program Improvement Grants (Appendix B).
- Provided a letter requesting: (1) addition of an ISAC member to the Assessment and Accountability Task Force, and (2) continued support for the portfolio format of alternate assessment (Appendix C).
- Provided comments on the rules changes for 226.540, 226.610 and 226.770 (Appendix D).
- Provided comments on the Illinois Alternate Assessment revisions (Appendix E).
- Provided letter of support for HB 1180 (Appendix F).

***Barriers to
Success***

- Delay in Council appointments
- Understaffing in ISBE - Special Education Unit
- Staffing changes in ISBE - Special Education Unit
- Finance
- Time sensitive responses

Council Minutes

Copies of approved minutes of the Council meetings from September 12, 2002, through June 13, 2003, are available upon request. Individuals are asked to contact the Executive Secretary to the State Advisory Council, Illinois State Board of Education, 100 North First Street, Springfield, Illinois 62777. Inquiries may be directed to 217/782-5589 (Voice), 217/782-1900 (TTY), or 217/782-0372.