

Illinois State Advisory Council

2007-2008

Annual Report



Date: January 6, 2009

Memorandum

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

From: Suzanne B. Woods, Chair
Illinois State Advisory Council on the
Education of Children with Disabilities

Subject: Annual Report 2007-2008

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 2007-2008 sessions.

ISAC had experienced attrition of members whose terms had expired or who had resigned due to personal reasons. We are pleased to announce in this report that we are now, thanks to recent gubernatorial appointments, nearly a full Council, with the exception of the following: two spots for parents of children with disabilities, one spot for a student with a disability, one spot for a Regional Superintendent, and one spot for a LEA Superintendent. We hope soon to have people named to these positions as each of these are integral to the work our Council does on behalf of children with disabilities in the state. Members now 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 once again provided comment on state and federal proposed rules implementing the *Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Act of 2004* (IDEA). ISAC provided public comment both to ISBE and to other legislative venues in order to get the special education rules into statute. The Chair provided public comment to the State Board of Education regarding the emergency Part 401 Rules. Two 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 food at the breakfast, as well as the decorations, was 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 restricted environment, and changes that have been made regarding the Illinois Alternate Assessment and Due Process System. ISAC established a new standing committee, Transition, in order to look closely at this important element of a student's education. 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.

Table of Contents

	Page
Identity and Purpose.....	5
Council Membership.....	6
Committees.....	8
Council Meeting Schedule 2007-2008.....	9
Critical Issues Identified for Discussion.....	10
Council Minutes	10
Public Participation.....	11
Council Actions... ..	11
Barriers to Success.....	12
Accomplishments.....	13
Appendices.....	14

APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Letter of support to JCAR regarding changes to Part 226 Rules.
- Appendix B: The ISAC letter indicating support of the Bradley Bourbonnais School District 53 comprehensive plan for withdrawal from KASEC
- Appendix C: The ISAC letter of support of the Somonauk Community Unit School District 432 withdrawal from DeKalb County Special Education Cooperative.
- Appendix D: The ISAC letter of support to the ISBE referencing Emergency Rules Part 401.
- Appendix E: The ISAC letter of support to the ISBE relative to the Bradley Bourbonnais Community High School District 307 comprehensive plan for withdrawal.
- Appendix F: The ISAC letter of support of the Avoca School District 37 withdrawal from North Suburban Special Education District.



ILLINOIS STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities Annual Report for 2007-2008

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
Appointed*

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

Elizabeth Conran	St. Charles	4/06
Nora Donoghue	Niles	8/07
Deb Fornoff	Washington	8/07
Brad Hedrick	Champaign	8/03
Tracy Michelon	Chicago	8/07
Heather Perkins	Rockford	8/07
Rick Ramirez	Peoria	8/07
Kristine Stanley	Peoria Heights	8/07
Stanley J. Valentine	East Peoria	8/03

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.

Anel Gonzalez	Forest Park	08/07
Kyle Packer	Effingham	03/04
Rahnee Patrick	Chicago	08/07
Susy Woods	Chesterfield	08/07

One regional superintendent of schools

Marie Stiefel	Freeport	09/07
---------------	----------	-------

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

Suzanne Lee	Urbana	08/07
-------------	--------	-------

One teacher of students with disabilities

Carrie Janes	Montgomery	08/07
--------------	------------	-------

One superintendent of a public school district

Dr. Eric King	Matteson	08/07
---------------	----------	-------

One director of special education cooperative or special education administrator from a school district of less than 500,000 population

James Surber	Lisle	08/07
--------------	-------	-------

One representative of a public charter school

Elizabeth Purvis	Chicago	08/05
------------------	---------	-------

One representative of a private school serving children with disabilities

Mike Otte	Orland Park	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 Teresa Garate, Chicago Public Schools District 299
Lanée Walls, Department of Corrections
Cynthia Mareno, Department of Children and Family Services
Marjorie Olson, Department of Human Services/ORS

ISBE Staff Elizabeth Hanselman, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education
Jodi Fleck, Acting Division Administrator, Special Education Services
Kathy Stratton, Program Specialist, Special Education Services

Other Representative Marva Campbell-Pruitt, Illinois Coordinating Council

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

Ad-Hoc Committees By-Laws Committee
Communications Committee
Nominating Committee

Council Meeting Schedule
2007-2008

DATE	TIME	MEETINGS	LOCATION
Wednesday, September 12, 2007 Thursday, September 13, 2007	TBD.	Orientation – All Members	Springfield
No Executive Committee Meeting for October	N/A	Executive Committee	Telephone Conference
Wednesday, October 10, 2007 Thursday, October 11, 2007	2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Committee of the Whole Business Meeting	Springfield
Tuesday, November 6, 2007	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Executive Committee	Telephone Conference
Wednesday, December 5, 2007 Thursday, December 6, 2007	2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Committee of the Whole Business Meeting	Springfield
Tuesday, January 8, 2008	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Executive Committee	Telephone Conference
Wednesday, February 6, 2008 Wednesday, February 6, 2008 Thursday, February 7, 2008	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Joint ICC/ISAC Meeting Committee of the Whole Business Meeting	Springfield
Tuesday, March 4, 2008	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Executive Committee	Telephone Conference
Wednesday, April 9, 2008 Thursday, April 10, 2008	2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Committee of the Whole Business Meeting	Springfield
Tuesday, May 6, 2008	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Executive Committee	Telephone Conference
Wednesday, June 11, 2008 Thursday, June 12, 2008	2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Committee of the Whole Business Meeting	Tinley Park



ILLINOIS STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Critical Issues Identified for Discussion

The Council identified the following as priorities for discussion in 2007-2008:

- Proposed 226 Rules
- Response to Intervention-ASPIRE
- State Improvement Plan Progress
- Bilingual concerns
- Transition
- Increased funding for special education
- Continuous Improvement Plan
- Emergency Part 401 Rules

Council Minutes

Copies of approved minutes of the Council meetings from June 8, 2006 through June 12, 2007 are available at the links given below. Individuals having difficulty accessing the minutes are asked to contact Kathy Stratton at: 217/782-5589 (Voice), 217/782-1900 (TTY), or 217/782-0372 (fax).

October 10/11, 2007

http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/isac_minutes_101107.pdf

December 5/6, 2007

http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/isac_minutes120607.pdf

February 6/7, 2008

http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/isac_bm_minutes_020708.pdf

April 9/10, 2008

http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/isac_min_bm04-10-08.pdf

May

http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/isac_minutes_5-21-08.pdf

June 11/12, 2008

http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/minutes/isac_min_bm06-12-08.pdf

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 11, 2006

1. The ISAC reviewed and accepted The Annual Report of 2006-2007.
2. The ISAC carried a motion for the Chair to draft a letter to legislators encouraging them to pass the BIMP bills that impact school funding.

December 6, 2007

1. The ISAC carried a motion to make a formal recommendation and comment that the ISBE come identify alternative assessment for ELL students, in particular those with disabilities, and issue guidance to school districts with sufficient time for the Spring 2008 administration of the State Assessment.
2. The ISAC carried a motion to recommend the ISBE prepare a report for Due Process subcommittee on the agenda for the meeting between CADRE and ISBE further exploring and developing alternate opportunities for the dispute resolution.
3. The ISAC carried a motion that the council send a letter to the Governor asking him to sign HB 4148.
4. The ISAC carried a motion that the council provide public comment supporting the proposed changes to the Part 226 Rules.
5. The ISAC carried a motion suggesting that parent training groups make transition a priority and include the information in the dissemination of materials.
6. The ISAC approved the changes to the Public Participation Guidelines proposed, hence adopting these guidelines for all future meetings.

February 7, 2008

1. The ISAC carried a motion supporting the ISBE's proposed change for the significant disproportionality ratio to shift from 3.0 to 4.0.
2. The ISAC carried a motion that the Bourbonnais School District 53's Comprehensive Plan for withdrawal be accepted and that the chair would write a letter to the district superintendent with copies to the Special Education Cooperative's director, the ROE, and the ISBE admonishing the school district for not including parents in the planning process for withdrawal until January of 2008.
3. The ISAC carried a motion for the Chair to write a letter to the governor and to legislators indicating the ISAC's support of the ISBE recommended FY-09 budget.
4. The ISAC carried a motion in support of the Due Process Committee assisting the ISBE in the development and design of the IEP Facilitation Pilot Program to be implemented by Fall 2010.

April 10, 2008

1. The ISAC carried a motion that the council requests the ISBE to identify and appoint a consultant to complete the functions of providing support on bilingual special education and participation in the joint state bilingual special education community.
2. The ISAC approved the council writing a letter to ISBE to support the comprehensive plan for withdrawal of Somonauk School District 432 from DeKalb County Special Education Association Cooperative (DCSEA).
3. The ISAC carried a motion that the council send a letter of support to regarding the emergency changes to the Part 401 Rules as part of public comments to the ISBE.
4. The ISAC carried a motion that the chair of ISAC transition committee invite state agencies, the ICC, the Attorney Generals' Office, IAASE, and others to be determined participate in the ISAC Transition Committee Meetings as external members.

May 21, 2008

1. The ISAC carried a motion that the council accept the draft document entitled "How the Illinois State Board of Education made Local Determinations under Section 616 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for the 2006-2007 School Year".
2. The ISAC carried a motion that the council write a letter to the ISBE supporting the Comprehensive Plan for withdrawal for Bradley Bourbonnais Community High School District 307 from Kankakee Area Special Education Cooperative (KASEC). The letter is to include the ISAC's concerns as outlined in the motion.

June 11, 2008

1. The ISAC carried a motion that the council write a letter to the ISBE supporting the Comprehensive Plan for withdrawal of the Avoca School district from the NSSSED cooperative.
2. The ISAC carried a motion that ISAC utilize a .25 ratio or lower for making a determination of underrepresentation for a particular racial/ethnic group in which there are at least ten students in the special education population.
3. The ISAC carried a motion to request ISBE to make formal appointment of a current staff member to serve as the liaison between ISBE and the Joint Bilingual Special Education Committee in writing by September 1, 2008.
4. The ISAC carried a motion requesting that ISBE develop an internal memo for all staff providing information on Bilingual Special Education with contact information included.
5. The ISAC carried a motion requesting ISBE to provide information to all school districts statewide on who to contact if issues relate to Bilingual Special Education.
6. The ISAC carried a motion to accept the nominating committee's slate of officers for fiscal year 09: Susy Woods, Chair and Beth Conran, Vice-Chair.
7. The ISAC carried a motion to approved the proposed 2008-2009 Meeting Calendar.

Barriers to Success:

1. 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.

2. 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.
3. 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 and responded to questions from members of JCAR regarding specific areas of concern within the 226 Rules.
2. The ISAC Communications Committee created and distributed a Newsletter to stakeholder groups in the Spring of 2008. 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. ISAC had a representative present at the ISBE Budget Hearings held around the state.
5. 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.
6. Members of ISAC continue to be active participants on the ISBE Alliance for School-based Problem-solving and Intervention Resources in Education.
7. Members of ISAC participated in the LEA Determination Stakeholder group. The stakeholder group meetings identified the means by which an LEA would be identified to one of four categories: meets requirements, needs assistance, needs intervention, or needs substantial intervention in regards to explicit sections in the State Performance Plan.
8. The ISAC reviewed four Comprehensive Plans for withdrawal:
 - a. Bradley Bourbonnais School District 53 from KASEC
 - b. Somonauk Community District 432 from DeKalb County Special Education
 - c. Bradley Bourbonnais Community High School District 307 from KASEC
 - d. Avoca School District 37 from NSSD
9. Publication of the ISAC Newsletter.
10. ISAC continued to review the Comprehensive Plan of Schiller Park to withdraw from Leyden Special Education Cooperative, made specific inquiries and disapproved comprehensive plan.
11. ISAC reviewed and gave public comment on the Part 226 Rules and the Emergency Part 401 Rules.

12. Participation on the ISBE stakeholder group preparing Parents Guide.
13. Participation in interviews of Due Process Hearing Officers.
14. Participation in the ISBE stakeholder group for SISEP.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Letter of support to JCAR regarding changes to Part 226 Rules.

December 6, 2007

To: State Board of Education
From: Suzy Wood, Chair
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 supports the proposed changes to Special Education Rules, specifically:

- Section 226.220 (Development, Review and Revision of the IEP) provision that acknowledges requirements that were added to Section 14-8.02 of the School Code by P.A. 95-257, related to the development of an IEP for a child with a disability on the autism spectrum.
- Section 226.635 (Appointment, Recusal, and Substitution of Impartial Due Process Hearing Officers) wording that specifies a timeframe for substitution of a hearing officer.
- Section 226.690 (Transfer of Parental Rights) the incorporation of a student's delegation of rights as set forth in new Section 14-6.10 of the School Code (P.A. 95-372).

Sincerely,

Suzie Wood Chair

Appendix B: The ISAC letter indicating support of the Bradley Bourbonnais School District 53 comprehensive plan for withdrawal from KASEC

February 10, 2008

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 the State Board of Education regarding modifications or additions to county or regional comprehensive plans. To this end, I write you regarding the Comprehensive Withdraw Plan written by the Bourbonnais Elementary School District 53 requesting to withdraw from Kankakee Area Special Education Cooperative.

The ISAC reviewed the Comprehensive Plan in committee on February 4, 2008 and reported the summary to the Council on February 6, 2008. On this date, a presentation and question/answer period was held with the Bourbonnais district superintendent, special education director, a parent and a teacher. Additional information was presented to the council from the Regional Office of Education and the Kankakee Cooperative. All three parties informed the council that none of the stakeholder groups contested the withdraw and that Bourbonnais and the Kankakee Cooperative had come to an official agreement regarding the terms of the withdraw and the Comprehensive Plan.

On February 7, 2008, the ISAC carried a motion to advise the ISBE to support the Comprehensive Plan however, the council expressed concerns with the late notification to parents regarding the withdrawal. While District 53 made several attempts to notify the parents in November of 2006 and in the posting of Board Agenda's they neglected to explicitly notify the parents of students who qualify under the IDEA until January 18, 2008 of their plan to withdrawal from the cooperative.

We believe that District 53 will continue to provide excellent services to children with disabilities and appreciate the work completed on the comprehensive plan.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Conran

Committee Chair: Comprehensive Planning Committee

Appendix C: The ISAC letter of support of the Somonauk Community Unit School District 432 withdrawal from DeKalb County Special Education Cooperative.

April 10, 2008

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 Somonauk School District 432 requesting to withdraw from Dekalb County Special Education Association Cooperative (DCSEA).

The ISAC reviewed the Comprehensive Plan in Committee on April 4, 2008 and reported the summary to the Council on April 9, 2008. On this date, a presentation and question/answer period was held with the Somonauk district superintendent, Special Education Director of the district and the special education director of the DCSEA.

On April 10, 2008, the ISAC carried a motion to advise the ISBE to support the Comprehensive Plan.

We believe that District 432 will continue to provide excellent services to children with disabilities and appreciate the work completed on the comprehensive plan.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Conran

Committee Chair: Comprehensive Planning Committee

Appendix D: The ISAC letter of support to the ISBE referencing Emergency Rules Part 401.

To: Sally Vogl, Rules, ISBE
From: Susy Woods, Chair
Subject: Proposed Part 401 Rules
Date: April 10, 2008

Introduction

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.

We are providing our input on the proposed Emergency Changes to Part 401 Rules governing ILS 14-7.02 non-public special education facilities.

AREAS OF SUPPORT

1. The Rules are comprehensive and serve an excellent purpose.
2. The ISAC supports the provision that expressly prohibits the "use of behavioral intervention strategies that would jeopardize the safety or security of students or would rely upon pain as an intentional method of control" (Section 401.140(a)).
3. The ISAC supports the rules in that a program utilizing such techniques would immediately be placed on Non-Approved status.
4. The ISAC supports the requirement for programs approved under 14-7.02 provision have in place policies that prohibit the use of pain as a behavioral intervention.

Appendix E: The ISAC letter of support to the ISBE relative to the Bradley Bourbonnais Community High School District 307 comprehensive plan for withdrawal.

May 22, 2008

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 Bradley Bourbonnais School District 307 requesting to withdraw from Kankakee Area Special Education Cooperative (KASEC).

The ISAC reviewed the Comprehensive Plan in Committee on May 12, 2008 and reported the summary to the Council on May 21, 2008. On this date, a presentation and question/answer period was held with the Bradley Bourbonnais District Superintendent, Special Education Director and the Special Education Director of the KASEC.

At this meeting, the ISAC carried a motion to advise the ISBE in support of the Comprehensive Plan. The council had two area of concern regarding the plan:

1. The plan did not include clarification of how services for low incident students would occur.
2. The did not indicate how the district would meet the requirement for Identification of Students Suspected of or Having a Specific Learning Disability under Section 226.130 of the school code. While the district is not required to have a plan until January 1, 2009 the plan did not indicate preliminary planning efforts.

While the plan was lacking in these areas the discourse that ensued at the meeting assisted the council in understanding how the district would provide services for students.

We believe that District 307 will continue to provide excellent services to children with disabilities and appreciate the work completed on the comprehensive plan.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Conran

Committee Chair: Comprehensive Planning Committee

Appendix F: The ISAC letter of support of the Avoca School District 37 withdrawal from North Suburban Special Education District (NSSSED).

June 12, 2008

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 Avoca School District request to withdraw from North Suburban Special Education District (NSSSED).

The ISAC reviewed the Comprehensive Plan on June 11, 2008 and reported the summary to the Council. On this date, a presentation and question/answer period was held with the Avoca district superintendent, Pupil Services Director of the district, parents of an Avoca student with special education needs, and the Wilmette School District 39. Administrative staff Avoca will be merging special education services with the Wilmette School District to provide comprehensive services for students.

On June 12, 2008, the ISAC carried a motion to advise the ISBE to support the Comprehensive Plan.

We believe that District 37 in unison with District 39 will continue to provide excellent services to children with disabilities and appreciate the work completed on the comprehensive plan.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Conran

Committee Chair: Comprehensive Planning Committee