



# *Annual Report* *Illinois State Advisory Council*



**2014 - 2015**

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## Memorandum

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

From: Sharon Slover, Chair  
Illinois State Advisory Council on the  
Education of Children with Disabilities

Subject: Annual Report 2014-2015

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 2014-2015 sessions.

ISAC has welcomed newly appointed members this year, and has benefitted from the perspective, knowledge and experience of these individuals on the council. Our membership represents most areas of the state as parents of children with disabilities, persons with disabilities, one member at large, educators, and governmental service agencies. 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 a letter of introduction to Governor Rauner on the work of ISAC. 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, was completely prepared by special education students in various programs from around the state. ISAC has also continued to analyze the effect of legislative 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 Illinois state assessments (PARCC and DLM) and the Due Process System. Again 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 2016 Budget Hearing

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# **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*

*Appointees* 6 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
Rick Ramirez	Moline	8/07
Kristine Houhulin	Peoria Heights	8/07
Joanna Graham	Macomb	2/12
Tiffany D. Cole	Monmouth	2/13
Lauri Phillips	Oswego	10/13
Diane Blair Sherlock	Villa Park	11/13
Kimberly McClellan	East St. Louis	11/13
Jeannine Cordero	Chicago	11/15
Keith Dronen	Wilmette	11/15

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.

Ancel Montinelli	Riverside	08/07
Susy Woods	Springfield	08/07
Vacant		

One regional superintendent of schools	Stephen Breeze	Jacksonville	06/12
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One representative of an institution of higher education that prepares special education and related services personnel	Suzanne Lee	Champaign	08/07
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One teacher of students with disabilities	Carrie Snyder	Aurora	08/07
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One director of special education cooperative or special education administrator from a school district of less than 500,000 population	Heath Brosseau	Chicago Ridge	08/12
One representative of a public charter school	Natalie Neris	Chicago	11/15
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*

Gloria Davis, Department of Juvenile Justice  
Tiffany Gholson, DCFS Director or Designee  
Marjorie Olson/ Serena Preston, Department of Human Services/ORS  
Ron Kubalanza, Representative of Chicago Public Schools

*ISBE Staff*

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



## **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*

By-Laws Committee  
Nominating Committee  
Twice Exceptional Committee

**ILLINOIS STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

**2014-2015 Meeting Calendar  
Adopted June 5, 2014, revised October 9, 2014**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>MEETINGS</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Thursday, October 9, 2014	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Business Meeting	ISBE – Springfield
<b>Wednesday, November 5, 2014</b>	<b>8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Executive Committee</b>	<b>Telephone Conference</b>
Wednesday, December 10 Thursday, December 11, 2014	2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Committee of the Whole Business Meeting	ISBE - Springfield
<b>Tuesday, January 6, 2015</b>	<b>8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Executive Committee</b>	<b>Telephone Conference</b>
Wednesday, February 11, 2015 Wednesday, February 11, 2015 Thursday, February 12, 2015	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Joint ICC/ISAC Meeting Committee of the Whole Business Meeting	ISBE - Springfield
<b>Tuesday, March 3, 2015</b>	<b>8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Executive Committee</b>	<b>Telephone Conference</b>
Thursday, April 9, 2015	8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 12:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Legislative Breakfast Business Meeting	Capitol Rotunda - Springfield ISBE - Springfield
<b>Tuesday, May 5, 2015</b>	<b>8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Executive Committee</b>	<b>Telephone Conference</b>
Wednesday, June 3, 2015 Thursday, June 4, 2015	12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Committee of the Whole Business Meeting	Eisenhower Cooperative 5318 West 135th Street Crestwood, IL 60445

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 2014-2015:

- Special Education Finance
- IDEA Grant allocations
- LRE Data Cohort outcomes
- Statewide Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) progress
- School Nursing endorsement training
- Bilingual concerns
- Transition
- Post Secondary Outcomes
- Due Process
- Increased funding for special education
- Changes in state assessment (PARCC and DLM)
- Legislation Relevant to Special Education

## **Council Minutes**

Copies of approved minutes of the Council meetings from October 9, 2014 through June 4, 2015 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 9, 2014***

***<http://isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/minutes/isac-bm-100914.pdf>***

***December 11, 2014***

***<http://isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/minutes/isac-bm-121114.pdf>***

***February 19, 2015***

***<http://isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/minutes/isac-bm-021915.pdf>***

***April 23, 2015***

***<http://isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/minutes/isac-bm-042315.pdf>***

***June 4, 2015***

***<http://isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/minutes/isac-bm-060415.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 9, 2014***

1. Motion carried that ISAC accept the withdrawal plan of Columbia CUSD #4 based on the expectations that their finished plan will include a continuum of services as well as related services needed to support students in the district.
2. Motion carried that support the recommendation of ISBE staff with regard to SPP Indicator targets as presented for SPP 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 14 with a target of 25-35% for Indicator 15 and 66% for Indicator 16.
3. Motion carried that ISAC amend the ISAC calendar to add December 10, 2014 Committee of the Whole (from 2:00-5:00pm) instead of the one day meeting scheduled for December 11, 2014.

### ***December 11, 2014***

1. Motion carried that ISAC recommends the ISBE approve the Rantoul Comprehensive Plan and that ISBE assure the plan included relevant parts under regulation 226.700.
2. Motion carried that ISAC requests that ISBE approve the Roxana CUSD #1 Comprehensive Withdrawal Plan with the request that they ask for information on how the district is exiting students with IEPs from special education, and what supports they put in place to support those students in general education to ensure they continue to make progress.
3. Motion carried that ISAC send to the Governor's Task Force on Employment First Work Group the 9 points of what ISAC's role is in transition.
4. Motion carried that ISAC Chairperson Slover send a letter to the New Governor Elect Transition Team for Education introducing the council and its role in the state.

### ***February 19, 2015***

1. Motion carried that ISAC recommend that ISBE approve the comprehensive withdrawal plan of Stevenson High School District #125, Lincolnshire- Prairie View #103, and Kildeer Countryside #96, noting "while ISAC feels the majority of the plan is strong and sufficient, we request that they provide more information concerning the transition program at the high school specifically: 1.) Current practices for competitive employment are aligned with the Department of Labor laws and 2.) How students are moving from high school to employment will be supported in securing such employment long term.
2. Motion carried that ISAC recommend the approval of the creation and submission of the introduction letter to the governor's office as presented with the corrections that were made.

### ***April 23, 2015***

1. Motion carried that 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 (Public Act 94-1100) for the purpose of reviewing the recommendations made by the Due Process Screening Committee pertaining to the reappointments of the Due Process Hearing Officers and the appointment of new Due Process Hearing Officers for the period from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

2. Motion carried that ISAC come out of closed session Pursuant to Section 2(c)(15) of the Open Meetings Act and Section 14-8.02c of the Illinois School Code (Public Act 94-1100) to consider Due Process Hearing Officer appointments for the period of July 1, 2105 to June 30, 2016 so that the State Advisory Council may ratify the recommendations of the Due Process Screening Committee.
3. Motion carried that ISAC adopt the Illinois Due Process Screening Committee recommendations for appointment of Illinois Due Process Hearing Officers for the 2015-2106 school year.

***The Due Process Hearing Officers are:***

Hearing Officers for FY15:

1. Kenneth Ashman
2. Beatriz Diaz-Pollack
3. Kathleen Fuhrmann
4. Marcia Johnson
5. Jennifer Leisner
6. Janet Maxwell-Wickett
7. Philip Milsk
8. Mary Schwartz
9. Sabrina Wilkins-Brown

***June 4, 2015***

1. Motion carried that ISAC accept the Freeport \$145 withdrawal and would like to commend them on the strides they have made and encourage them to continue working to include all students in LRE and especially those with autism, intellectual disabilities, and emotional disabilities.
2. Motion carried that ISAC accept the Woodstock #200 withdrawal and would like to commend them on the strides they have made and encourage them to continue working to include all students in LRE and especially those with autism, intellectual disabilities, and emotional disabilities.
3. Motion carried that ISAC approve the 2015-2016 meeting calendar with the June meeting date being changes to June 8 and 9, 2016.
4. Motion carried that ISAC approve the 2013-2014 Annual Report as written with the addition of the New Lenox withdrawal letter.
5. Motion carried that ISAC accepts the recommendation s of the Nominating Committee that Sharon Slover serve as chair and Jennifer Naddeo serve as vice-chair for 2015-2016.
6. Motion carried that ISAC supports the changes to Part 226 and Part 401 per the earlier discussion and memoranda provided.

## **Accomplishments**

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

1. The ISAC provided an introductory letter to Governor Rauner outlining the work of the council.
2. The ISAC Communications Committee created and distributed a Newsletter to stakeholder groups this year. Included were General Assembly Members, educators, and parents of children with a disability.
3. The ISAC members were active participants in the planning and organizing of the State Transition Conference.
4. The ISAC Transition Committee participated in the Transition Work Group for Employment First - The Governor's Task Force on Employment & Economic Opportunity for People with Disabilities.
5. The ISAC had a representative present testimony regarding full funding of mandated special education programs and supports.
6. The 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.
7. The ISAC reviewed six collective Comprehensive Plans for withdrawal.
8. The ISAC continued participation in interviews of Due Process Hearing Officers.
9. The ISAC continued participation in the development of the Facilitated IEP Program.
10. The ISAC continued learning about and providing input in the development of the SSIP.

## **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.
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.



## **Appendices**

### **Appendix A: Presentation to State Board of Education Finance and Audit Committee FY 2016 Budget Hearing**

#### **Presentation to State Board of Education Finance and Audit Committee FY 2016 Budget Hearing**

We are 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 the 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 who are eligible and thus receive special education instruction and related services. We respectfully request that funds earmarked to support the delivery of special education remain a budgetary priority consideration for FY 2016. ISAC would like to acknowledge the array of challenges that the board members face in submitting the FY 2016 education budget to the governor and General Assembly. We acknowledge that the task associated with the distribution of state funds to all Illinois school districts in an equitable manner during a time of fiscal stress is not is extremely challenging. With that said, we appreciate your efforts in making education within the State of Illinois a budgetary priority. Moreover, as members of ISAC, we are grateful for the opportunity to come before you today to provide input in relation to the FY 2016 K-12 education budget, specifically as it relates to and impacts the students with disabilities.

- We respectfully recommend that budgetary consideration be given to special education mandated categoricals. The special categorical aid for the areas of personnel reimbursement, funding for special education services, orphanage tuition, private school tuition, summer school, and transportation, must be maintained for the purpose of appropriately supporting the needs of students with disabilities across the state of Illinois.
- We strongly recommend that the state of Illinois maintains the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) obligations with the federal government so as not to jeopardize the loss of any federal monies provide for special education.
- Thoughtful consideration must be given to the Education Funding Advisory Board's (EFAB) recommendations for adequate foundation Levels. The GSA foundation level has increasingly fallen behind the EFAB recommendation over the last 10 years. This shortfall in monies spent per pupil negatively impacts a school district's ability to address the needs of students with disabilities, who require additional resources to achieve.

On behalf of the ISAC we want to express our appreciation for the opportunity to speak on behalf of students with disabilities. The views represented in this paper are respectfully submitted on behalf of the ISAC by Heath Brosseau and Mike Otte.

*Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Illinois State Advisor Council by  
Heath Brosseau and Mike Otte*

## Appendix B: Letter to Governor's Task Force on Employment First Work Group

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### **ILLINOIS STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

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To Whom It May Concern

This letter 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.

On December 19, 2013, The Governor's Task force on Employment and Economic Opportunity for People with Disabilities voted to submit an application to the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) for the 2014 Employment First Leadership State Mentoring Program Vision Quest Series. The three choices outlined in the application were:

1<sup>st</sup> Choice – Improving School-to-Work Transition Outcomes for Youth and Young Adults with Significant Disabilities thru Cross-Systems Policy Collaborations, Service Coordination, and funding alignment

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice – Aligning Policy & Funding to Support Effective Practices that Lead to Integrated Employment: Bringing Customized Employment, Individual SES and Self-Employment Strategies to Scale

3<sup>rd</sup> Choice – Develop Sustainable Wrap-around Supports to Make Integrated Employment and Community Engagement a Reality for Citizens with Significant Disabilities; Housing, Transportation, Community-Based Day Activities, Personal Assistance, and Companionship

100 North First Street, Springfield, Illinois 62777

During the meeting the Task Force made recommendations on necessary State partners for moving forward with policy change with Illinois being an Employment First State. All choices indicated above are at the heart of Transition. There exists a mounting wealth of evidence and data affirming that when states align policies, service delivery practice, and funding across system, the successful transition of youth and young adult with disabilities to employment and post-secondary education can be successful mitigated. During this topical Vision Quest working group, states will work on developing policy reform and systems-change strategies to effectuate desired outcomes for youth at school exit to be employed in a job of choice, enrolled in post-secondary education, and/or continue on their career path with supports in place.

Transition has been at the heart of many discussions and the ISAC feels that we have individuals that are able to participate in discussions and identify gaps in seamless transition techniques and services leading to policy recommendation for achieving better school to work outcomes.

In conclusion the ISAC recommends ISBE request an ISAC member participate in this important work group.

Best wishes,



Sharon Slover  
Vice Chair ISAC



Dr. Elizabeth Conran  
Chair ISAC

Cc: Governors Task Force on Employment First



## **ILLINOIS STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

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March 3, 2015

Governor Bruce Rauner  
Office of the Governor  
207 State House  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Rauner,

By way of introduction, I write you on behalf of the Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities (ISAC), in my capacity as its current chair. Our council would like to familiarize you with our work and to apprise you of the current status of our activities. We look forward to working with your administration to continue to provide advice and counsel in an effort to ensure quality services on behalf of children with disabilities in our schools.

To provide some background and a synopsis of the council and its work:

The Council exists as the result of mandates in both state and federal law to provide advice and policy guidance to the Governor, General Assembly, and the State Board of Education on special education and related services for children with disabilities.

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;

100 North First Street, Springfield, Illinois 62777

- 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 14-8.0
- 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 disability
  - 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 – Revised June 6, 2006 Council By-Laws.

The **Council Membership** is established by 105 ILCS 5/14-301 and consists of twenty-three (23) members appointed by the Governor and four (4) ex-officio voting members. 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.

There are currently several unfilled positions on the council, specifically:

- 2 positions – Individual with Disabilities
- 1 position – Student with a disability
- 1 position – Parent of a child with a disability
- LEA Superintendent

We believe it is important to have full membership to ensure the broad representation that is our charter. While we understand you have many important matters to attend to, the Council would appreciate your prompt

consideration of appointing additional members to ISAC. We hope that the information we provide herein is useful in familiarizing you and your transition team with the work of ISAC. If you need any further information or would like to attend or have a representative attend a meeting, I enclose a list of our upcoming meetings.

Again, we look forward to working with you and your administration and hope that you may find some time to stop by on Legislative Day on April 23, 2015, when we will have some of our children at the Capitol Rotunda serving breakfast. Feel free to contact me at (630) 209-6338 or Mary Long at the Illinois State Board of Education (217) 782-5589 with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon Slover", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sharon Slover  
Chair  
Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education  
of Children with Disabilities

Attachments: 2014-2015 ISAC Calendar  
Council Membership



# Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001  
www.isbe.net

Gery J. Chico  
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

October 28, 2014

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Dr. Gina Segobiano  
Superintendent  
Columbia Community Unit School District 4  
5 Veterans Parkway  
Columbia, Illinois 62236-1147

Re: *Columbia CUSD 4 serving as an independent district*

Dear Dr. Segobiano:

As you are aware, on October 9, 2014, the Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities recommended the approval of the comprehensive plan for Columbia CUSD 4 to act as an independent district serving students with disabilities. Before considering this recommendation, the Special Education Services Division of the Illinois State Board of Education requested revisions or additions to the district's comprehensive plan. These requested additions and/or revisions have been provided and I am pleased to inform you the Special Education Services Division of the Illinois State Board of Education has accepted ISAC's recommendation to approve Columbia CUSD 4's comprehensive plan as amended. This approval is based on the comprehensive plan and revisions filed with the Special Education Services Division. The comprehensive monitoring visit will be conducted during the second semester of the 2015-2016 school year. Your cooperation and consideration during this process are sincerely appreciated. Please contact Boyd Fergusson in the Special Education Services Division at 217/782-5589 or at [bfergurs@isbe.net](mailto:bfergurs@isbe.net) if you have any questions regarding this matter.

*Elizabeth Hanselman*

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Hanselman  
Assistant Superintendent for Specialized  
Instruction, Nutrition and Wellness

Cc: Beth Horner, Assistant Superintendent, District 4

Honorable Kelton Davis, Regional Superintendent  
Sharon Slover, Chair, ISAC  
Suzanne Wood, Chair, Comprehensive Plan Committee, ISAC Tim  
Imler, Division Administrator, Illinois State Board of Education  
Janet Alison, Funding and Disbursements, ISBE  
Jodi Whitlow, Funding and Disbursements, ISBE  
Felicia Malloy, Special Education Services, ISBE



## Appendix E: Letter to ISBE Rantoul District 137 Comprehensive Plan for Withdrawal



# Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001  
[www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net)

Gery J. Chico  
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

January 8, 2015

Michelle Ramage  
Superintendent  
Rantoul City Schools District 137  
400 East Wabash  
Rantoul, Illinois 61866

Re: *Rantoul City Schools District 137 serving as an independent district*

Dear Superintendent Ramage:

As you are aware, on December 10, 2014, the Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities recommended the approval of the comprehensive plan for Rantoul CSD 137 to act as an independent district serving students with disabilities. Before considering this recommendation, the Special Education Services Division of the Illinois State Board of Education requested revisions or additions to the district's comprehensive plan. These requested additions and/or revisions have been provided and I am pleased to inform you the Special Education Services Division of the Illinois State Board of Education has accepted ISAC's recommendation to approve Rantoul CSD 137's comprehensive plan as amended. This approval is based on the comprehensive plan and revisions filed with the Special Education Services Division. The comprehensive monitoring visit will be conducted during the second semester of the 2015-2016 school year. Your cooperation and consideration during this process are sincerely appreciated. Please contact Boyd Fergusson in the Special Education Services Division at 217/782-5589 or at [bfergurs@isbe.net](mailto:bfergurs@isbe.net) if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Hanselman".

Elizabeth Hanselman  
Assistant Superintendent for Specialized  
Instruction, Nutrition and Wellness

Cc: Mike Springer, Assistant Superintendent, District 137  
Honorable Jane Quinlan, Regional Superintendent  
Sharon Slover, Chair, ISAC  
Suzanne Wood, Chair, Comprehensive Plan Committee, ISAC  
Tim Imler, Division Administrator, Illinois State Board of Education  
Janet Alison, Funding and Disbursements, ISBE  
Jodi Whitlow, Funding and Disbursements, ISBE  
Felicia Malloy, Special Education Services, ISBE

## Appendix F: Letter to ISBE Roxana Community Unit School District 1 Comprehensive Plan for Withdrawal



# Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001  
www.isbe.net

Gery J. Chico  
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

January 8, 2015

Mrs. Debra Kreutztrager  
Superintendent  
Roxana Community Unit School District 1  
401 Chaffer Avenue  
Roxana, Illinois 62084

Re: *Roxana Community Unit School District 1 serving as an independent district*

Dear Superintendent Kreutztrager:

As you are aware, on December 10, 2014, the Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities recommended the approval of the comprehensive plan for Roxana CUSD 1 to act as an independent district serving students with disabilities. Before considering this recommendation, the Special Education Services Division of the Illinois State Board of Education requested revisions or additions to the district's comprehensive plan. These requested additions and/or revisions have been provided and I am pleased to inform you the Special Education Services Division of the Illinois State Board of Education has accepted ISAC's recommendation to approve Roxana CUSD 1's comprehensive plan as amended. This approval is based on the comprehensive plan and revisions filed with the Special Education Services Division. The comprehensive monitoring visit will be conducted during the second semester of the 2015-2016 school year. Your cooperation and consideration during this process are sincerely appreciated. Please contact Boyd Ferguson in the Special Education Services Division at 217/782-5589 or at [bfergurs@isbe.net](mailto:bfergurs@isbe.net) if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Hanselman".

Elizabeth Hanselman  
Assistant Superintendent for Specialized  
Instruction, Nutrition and Wellness

Cc: Laura Ballard, Director of Special Education, District 1  
Honorable Robert Daiber, Regional Superintendent  
Sharon Slover, Chair, ISAC  
Suzanne Wood, Chair, Comprehensive Plan Committee, ISAC  
Tim Imler, Division Administrator, Illinois State Board of Education  
Janet Alison, Funding and Disbursements, ISBE  
Jodi Whitlow, Funding and Disbursements, ISBE  
Felicia Malloy, Special Education Services, ISBE

**Appendix G: Letter to ISBE Stevenson High School District 125, Lincolnshire-Prairie View District 103 and Kildeer Countryside District 96 Comprehensive Plan for Withdrawal**



## **Illinois State Board of Education**

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James T. Meeks  
Chairman

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

April 21, 2015

Hon. Roycealee Wood  
Regional Superintendent  
800 Lancer Lane, Suite E-128  
Grayslake, Illinois 60030-2656

Re: *formation of Exceptional Learners' Collaborative*

Dear Regional Superintendent Wood:

As you are aware, on February 19, 2015, the Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities recommended the approval of the Comprehensive Plan for special education and related services submitted by Adlai E. Stevenson High School District 125, Kildeer Countryside Community Consolidated School District 96, and Lincolnshire-Prairie View School District 103 regarding their imminent withdrawal from the Special Education District of Lake County (SEDOL) and the formation of Exceptional Learners' Collaborative (ELC), a new joint agreement for the provision of special education and related services. Before considering this recommendation, the Special Education Services Division of the Illinois State Board of Education requested revisions or additions to the new cooperative's comprehensive plan.

These requested additions and/or revisions have been provided and I am pleased to inform you the Special Education Services Division of the Illinois State Board of Education has accepted ISAC's recommendation to approve this comprehensive plan as amended. This approval is based on the comprehensive plan and revisions filed with the Special Education Services Division. The comprehensive monitoring visit will be conducted during the second semester of the 2015-2016 school year. Your cooperation and consideration during this process are sincerely appreciated. Please contact Boyd Fergusson in the Special Education Services Division at 217/782-5589 or at [bfergurs@isbe.net](mailto:bfergurs@isbe.net) if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Andel".

David Andel, Division Administrator  
Special Education Services

Cc: Dr. Eric Twadell, Superintendent, Adlai E. Stevenson HSD 125  
Julie A. Schmidt, Superintendent, Kildeer Countryside CCSD 96  
Dr. Scott H. Warren, Superintendent, Lincolnshire-Prairie View SD 103  
Jay Miller, Dir. of Special Education, Adlai E. Stevenson HSD 125  
Heather Friziellie, Dir. of Special Education, Kildeer Countryside CCSD 96  
Julie Postma, Dir. of Special Education, Lincolnshire-Prairie View SD 103  
Laura M. Sinars, Robbins Schwartz  
Dr. Thomas Moline, Dir. of Special Education, SEDOL  
Tim Imler, Division Administrator, ISBE  
Denise Burge, Funding and Disbursements, ISBE  
Janet Alison, Funding and Disbursements, ISBE  
Jodi Whitlow, Funding and Disbursements, ISBE  
Felicia Malloy, ISBE



**Appendix H: Letter to ISBE Freeport School District 145 Comprehensive Plan for Withdrawal**



# Illinois State Board of Education

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James T. Meeks  
Chairman

Tony Smith, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

June 15, 2015

Dr. Peter Flynn  
Superintendent  
Freeport School District 145  
501 East South Street  
Freeport, Illinois 60132

Re: *Freeport SD 145 serving as an independent district*

Dear Dr. Flynn:

As you are aware, on June 4, 2015, the Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities recommended the approval of the comprehensive plan for Freeport SD 145 to act as an independent district serving students with disabilities. No revisions or additions to the plan were requested, therefore I am pleased to inform you the Special Education Services Division of the Illinois State Board of Education has accepted ISAC's recommendation to approve Freeport SD 145's comprehensive plan as presented. This approval is based on the comprehensive plan filed with the Special Education Services Division. The comprehensive monitoring visit will be conducted during the second semester of the 2015-2016 school year. Your cooperation and consideration during this process are sincerely appreciated. Please contact Boyd Fergusson in the Special Education Services Division at 217/782-5589 or at [bfergurs@isbe.net](mailto:bfergurs@isbe.net) if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David Andel".

David Andel  
Division Administrator  
Special Education Services

Cc: Karen Sanders, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, District 145  
Honorable Aaron Mercier, Regional Superintendent  
Christy Hopper, Director, Northwest Special Education  
Sharon Slover, Chair, ISAC  
Suzanne Wood, Chair, Comprehensive Plan Committee, ISAC  
Tim Imler, Division Administrator, Illinois State Board of Education  
Denise Burge, Funding and Disbursements, ISBE  
Jodi Whitlow, Funding and Disbursements, ISBE  
Felicia Malloy, Special Education Services, ISBE

## Appendix I: Letter to ISBE Woodstock School District 200 Comprehensive Plan for Withdrawal



# Illinois State Board of Education

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James T. Meeks  
Chairman

Tony Smith, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

June 15, 2015

Dr. Michael Moan  
Superintendent  
Woodstock Community Unit School District 200  
227 West Judd Street  
Woodstock, Illinois 60098

Re: *Woodstock CUSD 200 serving as an independent district*

Dear Dr. Moan:

As you are aware, on June 4, 2015, the Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities recommended the approval of the comprehensive plan for Woodstock CUSD 200 to act as an independent district serving students with disabilities. No revisions or additions to the plan were requested, therefore I am pleased to inform you the Special Education Services Division of the Illinois State Board of Education has accepted ISAC's recommendation to approve Woodstock CUSD 200's comprehensive plan as presented. This approval is based on the comprehensive plan filed with the Special Education Services Division. The comprehensive monitoring visit will be conducted during the second semester of the 2015-2016 school year. Your cooperation and consideration during this process are sincerely appreciated. Please contact Boyd Fergusson in the Special Education Services Division at 217/782-5589 or at [bfergurs@isbe.net](mailto:bfergurs@isbe.net) if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David Andel".

David Andel  
Division Administrator  
Special Education Services

Cc: Lisa Pearson, Director of Special Education, District 200  
Honorable Leslie Shermerhorn, Regional Superintendent  
Kathy Wilhoit, Director, Special Education District of McHenry County  
Sharon Slover, Chair, ISAC  
Suzanne Wood, Chair, Comprehensive Plan Committee, ISAC  
Tim Imler, Division Administrator, Illinois State Board of Education  
Denise Burge, Funding and Disbursements, ISBE  
Jodi Whitlow, Funding and Disbursements, ISBE  
Dawn Camacho, Special Education Services, ISBE