

Annual Report



Illinois State Advisory Council

2009-2010



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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 2009-2010

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 2009-2010 sessions.

ISAC has experienced attrition of members whose terms had expired or who had resigned due to personal reasons. At present time we have a number of spots that need to be filled. These include: one position for a person with a disability, three positions for parents of children with disabilities, one position for Department of Corrections (Juvenile Justice), one position for the LEA Superintendent, one position for the Regional Superintendent (in total 7 positions). 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. Members also represent parents of children with disabilities, persons with disabilities, one member at large, educators, and governmental service agencies.

The Council once again provided comment on issues that impacted students with disabilities in public schools. Two members of the Finance Committee also did public comment regarding a more equitable funding for special education. 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, express concern about the lack of funding to provide adequate special education services, monitor Illinois' progress regarding education children with disabilities in the least restricted environment, and changes that have been made regarding the Illinois Alternate Assessment and Due Process System. ISAC continues to make transition an important issue. The Transition Committee, established two years ago as a standing committee, has broadened and several people from the greater educational community sit on the committee in order to look closely at this important element of a student's education. ISAC members continue to do public testimony both before the state board 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. We appreciate and anticipate this continuation of support even as the State deals with difficult financial issues.

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: Letter to ISBE Ball Chatham CUSD #5 Comprehensive Plan for Withdrawal
- Appendix B: Letter to ISBE Lake Zurich District #95 Comprehensive Plan for Withdrawal
- Appendix C: Letter to ISBE Hiawatha CUSD #426 Comprehensive Plan for Withdrawal
- Appendix D: Letter of Concerns in Regards to the Proposed Changes to Part 228: Transitional Bilingual Education
- Appendix E: Letter of support for Proposed Changes to Part 24 - Standards for All Illinois Teachers
- Appendix F: Letter of support for the proposal submitted under the State Personnel Development Grant Program (CFDA 84.323)
- Appendix G: Presentation to State Board of Education Finance and Audit Committee FY 2011 Budget Hearing



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 2009-2010

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	Highland Park	8/07
Deb Fornoff	Washington	8/07
Heather Perkins	Rockford	8/07
Rick Ramirez	Moline	8/07
Kristine Stanley	Peoria Hts	8/07
Stanley J. Valentine	East Peoria	8/03
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.

Anel Gonzalez	Riverside	08/07
Kyle Packer	Effingham	03/04
Susy Woods	Chesterfield	08/07
Vacant		
Vacant		

One regional superintendent of schools	Position Vacant
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One representative of an institution of higher	Suzanne Lee	Champaign	08/07
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education that prepares special education and related services personnel

One teacher of students with disabilities	Carrie Janes	Aurora	08/07
One superintendent of a public school district	Position Vacant		
One director of special education cooperative or special education administrator from a school district of less than 500,000 population	Jim 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	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

Frances Elbert, Department of Children and Family Services
Marjorie Olson, Department of Human Services/ORS
Geneva Oatman, City of Chicago Public Schools
Vacant, Department of Corrections/Department of Juvenile Justice

ISBE Staff

Elizabeth Hanselman, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education
David Andel, Division Head, Special Education
Kathy Stratton, Program Specialist, Special Education Services

Other Representative Marva Campbell-Pruitt, Illinois Coordinating Council

Committees

Standing Committees

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

Ad-Hoc Committees

By-Laws
Nominating

**Council Meeting Schedule
2009-2010 Adopted June 11, 2009**

DATE	TIME	MEETINGS	LOCATION
Wednesday, September 9, 2009 Thursday, September 10, 2009	2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Committee of the Whole Business Meeting	ISBE - Springfield
Wednesday, October 14, 2009 Thursday, October 15, 2009	2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Committee of the Whole Business Meeting	ISBE - Springfield
Tuesday, November 3, 2009	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Executive Committee	Telephone Conference
Wednesday, December 9, 2009 Thursday, December 10, 2009	2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Committee of the Whole Business Meeting	ISBE - Springfield
Tuesday, January 12, 2010	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Executive Committee	Telephone Conference
Wednesday, February 10, 2010 Wednesday, February 10, 2010 Thursday, February 11, 2010	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	ISBE - Springfield
Tuesday, March 2, 2010	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Executive Committee	Telephone Conference
Wednesday, April 14, 2010 Thursday, April 15, 2010	2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Committee of the Whole Business Meeting	ISBE - Springfield
Tuesday, May 4, 2010	1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Executive Committee	Telephone Conference
Wednesday, June 9, 2010 Thursday, June 10, 2010	2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Committee of the Whole Business Meeting	Eisenhower Coop 5318 West 135th St 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 2009-2010:

- Response to Intervention-ASPIRE
- State Improvement Plan Progress
- Bilingual concerns
- Transition
- Post Secondary Outcomes
- Due Process
- Increased funding for Special Education
- Continuous Improvement Plan
- Legislation relevant to Special Education

Council Minutes

Copies of approved minutes of the Council meetings from September 10, 2009 through June 10, 2010 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).

September 10, 2009

http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/minutes/isac_bm_091009.pdf

November 3, 2009

http://isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/minutes/isac_bm_110309.pdf

December 10, 2009

http://isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/minutes/isac_bm121009.pdf

January 12, 2010

http://isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/minutes/isac_bm_011210.pdf

February 11, 2010

http://isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/minutes/isac_bm_021110.pdf

April 15, 2010

http://isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/minutes/isac_bm_041510.pdf

June 10, 2010

http://isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/minutes/isac_bm_061010.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

September 10, 2009

1. Motion to accept Suzanne Woods and Beth Conran as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for 2009-2010 year.

November 3, 2009 Executive Committee Meeting

1. Motion carried that a presentation be approved as presented with minor grammatical changes and the following sentence added: "On July 26, 2007, House Joint Resolution 0024 (HJR 24) was adopted by the Illinois General Assembly. HJR 24 creates a Task Force to study special education funding and to make a recommendation as to how the State can increase special education funding and ease the financial burden on our districts. It is our understanding that a draft report has been completed and that the report may impact how special education is funded in all of Illinois thereby impacting children with disabilities. We respectfully request that ISAC receive a copy of the Taskforce report as soon as it is completed and have ample time to review and make recommendations to the ISBE prior to any action being taken relative to funding formulas in Illinois."
2. Motion carried to accept the changes to the SPP targets as suggested by ISBE staff.
3. Motion carried to accept the proposed goals as presented by ISAC Due Process General Supervision Committee.

December 10, 2009

Motion carried for the ISAC to send a letter to ISBE: requesting the agency require Ball-Chatham CUSD #5 provide sufficient information in the following areas prior to approval for withdraw:

- Provision of services for Bi-lingual students
- Provision of services for secondary transition services
- Provision of services for assistive technology
- Provision of services for students with low incident disabilities

January 12, 2010

1. Motion carried that ISAC accept the recommendations of ISBE staff relative to the targets and baseline data for indicator 7 of the SPP.

February 11, 2010

None reported

April 15, 2010

1. Motion to approve the minutes of February 11, 2010 with the following correction. Under the listing for Transition Committee it will read as follows: The Transition Committee met by phone on February 4, 2010. The joint work group and working plan developed by the combined IICC and ISAC Transition Committees is on hold, pending input from Beth Hanselman. Additional updates were shared by committee members and include: Sharon Slover and Phil Milsk have been appointed to the Governor's

Task Force on Employment and Economic Opportunity; and NIU is planning a Summer Institute on Transition.

2. Motion that ISAC send a letter to ISBE requesting the agency request Lake Zurich District #95 provide additional information in the following areas prior to approval for withdraw.
 - ISBE seek further clarification regarding procedures for transitioning (moving) students with IEP's from grade to grade and building to building and a discussion of the extent to which this process is similar or different from those used for students with IEP's.
 - ISBE seek further information regarding Autism programming within the district.
 - ISBE seek further clarification on Least Restrictive Environment for Autism and Cognitive disabilities.
 - ISBE seek further clarification on programming available for Bi-lingual students
 - ISBE seek a long term plan from the district relative to Transition programming in the district.
 - ISBE seek a plan for how the district will assess and identify actions to provide Professional Development for teachers
 - Professional development for affording teachers with training that will assist to increase students in less restrictive environment.
 - ISBE seek information relative to child find. There were concerns about minority children being placed into more restrictive environment.
3. Motion that ISAC makes a public comment to the Part 228 Transitional Bilingual Education Rules that reflects concerns about: 1. the elimination of Section 228.30.D, In-Service Training for Staff, which includes a component for professional development in research-based methods for teaching students with disabilities who have limited English proficiency, and 2. The lack of language in the rules addressing RtI as it relates to students who are English Language Learners.
4. Motion that ISAC adopt the following ISBE recommendation: ISBE recommends using a cell-size of 5 students to remain consistent with criteria that has been established for Indicator 4A. For the districts that are identified to have a significant discrepancy, ISBE will require these districts to complete a self-assessment that includes a review of policies, procedures and practices related to suspensions and expulsions. A function of the review will require districts to address the collection of data, the procedural safeguards to ensure that such policies, procedures, and practices comply with applicable requirements. Districts will have to develop an action plan to reduce the rates of suspensions/expulsions of children with disabilities for more than ten days in a school year.
5. Motion that ISAC send a letter to the Governor and to Legislators indicating support for the ISBE proposed budget and urging them to support Fall Funding at the mandated categoricals.
6. Motion that ISAC submit public comment on the proposed Illinois Professional Standards as follows: ISAC would like to acknowledge the high quality and progressive orientation of the proposed Illinois Professional Teaching Standards. Particularly worthy of note is the effort to embed across all standard areas the knowledge and skill indicators related to educating students with disabilities. We appreciate the thorough attention to students with IEPs and best educational practice across all areas related to planning and delivering instruction, assessment, managing the learning environment and other important areas of professional practice for all educators.

June 10, 2010

1. Motion to adopt the agenda with the following change: Move the discussion of the Part 226 Rules listed under New Business to immediately following the Public Participation portion of the meeting. Public Participation will be divided into two groups: 1) Anyone wishing to address ISAC regarding any issue other than the Part 226 Rules. This will be followed by the Part 226 Rules discussion. 2) A second public participation will be allowed for anyone wishing to address ISAC regarding the Part 226 Rules.

2. Motion to approve the minutes of April 15, 2010 as presented.
3. Motion that 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), ISAC go into closed session for the purpose of considering the recommendations of the Illinois Due Process Screening Committee to determine whether said Hearing Officers shall be recommended for reappointment for the period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. Andy Eulass, Beth Hanselman and Beatriz Diaz- Pollack were invited to join the closed session to facilitate this discussion.
4. Motion that 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), ISAC end the closed session to consider Due Process Hearing Officer appointments for the period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 so that the State Advisory Council may move into open session to make the appointments so described.
5. Motion that a vote be taken on the 12 names 'Recommended for Reappointment'. Rahnee Patrick asked for an amendment that called for removing Kristine Anderson and Ann Breen-Greco from the vote. Beth Purvis and Sharon Slover both accepted this amendment.
6. Motion that ISAC "Recommend for Reappointment" the 10 names presented – excluding Kristine Anderson and Ann Breen-Greco.
7. Motion that no contract be offered to Shawna Hermann for reappointment.
8. Motion that no contract be offered to Alfred Spitzzeri for reappointment.
9. Motion that a contract be offered to James Wolter for reappointment.
10. Motion that no reserve status contract be offered to Julia Quinn Dempsey.
11. Motion that no contract be offered to Julia Quinn Dempsey for reappointment.
12. Motion that 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), ISAC go into closed session for the purpose of considering the recommendations of the Illinois Due Process Screening Committee to determine whether said Hearing Officers shall be recommended for reappointment for the period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. Andy Eulass, Beth Hanselman and Beatriz Diaz- Pollack were invited to join the closed session to facilitate this discussion.
13. Motion that 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), ISAC end the closed session to consider Due Process Hearing Officer appointments for the period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 so that the State Advisory Council may move into open session to make the appointments so described.
14. Motion that a contract be offered to Ann Breen-Greco for reappointment.
15. Motion that a contract be offered to Kristine Anderson for reappointment.
16. Motion that ISAC members accept the nominations of Susy Woods as Chair and Beth Conran as Vice Chair of ISAC for the 2010-2011 ISAC Meeting Year.
17. Motion that ISAC send a letter to ISBE requesting the agency seek further information as outlined below prior to approval of the Comprehensive plan:
 - Provisions for the full continuum of services.
 - Additional information regarding provisions for their special education students who are bilingual.
 - Additional information regarding the districts provision for assistive technology.
 - Provided resources to the district that are available around the state such as Project Choices.
18. Motion that ISAC accept ISBE's recommended updates to the Part 226 Rules.
19. Motion that ISAC accept ISBE's proposal that Significant Disproportionality for the number of out-of-school suspensions (including expulsions) of greater than 10 days be modeled after the criteria set by ISAC/ISBE on April 15, 2010, with increased benchmarks for the number of standard deviations used and cell size:

- A Suspension/Expulsion rate for each racial/ethnic category is calculated for each district: ((# of students with IEPs suspended or expelled in the racial/ethnic category for more than 10 days)/ (# of students with IEPs in the racial/ethnic category)*100
- An Overall State Suspension/Expulsion Rate is calculated by using the total number of students with IEPs suspended or expelled for more than 10 days statewide, and the total number of students with IEPs statewide.
- A State Suspension/Expulsion Rate by Race/Ethnicity is calculated by using the total number of students with IEPs suspended or expelled for more than 10 days in the racial/ethnic category statewide, and the total number of students with IEPs in the racial/ethnic category statewide.
- ISBE will use the greater of the statewide rates calculated in steps #2 and 3 to calculate the number of standard deviations of each district's rate from the statewide rate.
- A district is determined to have a Significant Disproportionality if:
 - Its Suspension/Expulsion Rate for a particular racial/ethnic category is greater than the State Suspension/Expulsion Rate + 3 standard deviations for three consecutive years, AND
 - The district has at least 45 students suspended or expelled more than 10 days in the racial/ethnic category.

20. Motion that ISAC accept the proposed 2010-2011 ISAC Meeting Calendar as presented.

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 401 Rules.
2. The ISAC Communications Committee created and distributed a Newsletter to stakeholder groups twice this year. Included were General Assembly Members, educators, and parents of children with a disabilities.
3. ISAC members were active participants in the planning and organizing of the State Transition Conference.
4. The ISAC Transition Committee spearheaded a statewide stakeholder group that is working to champion transitioning across the state.
5. ISAC had a representative present at the ISBE Budget Hearings held around the state.
6. 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. Members of ISAC continue to be active participants on the ISBE Alliance for School-based Problem-solving and Intervention Resources in Education.
8. 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.
9. The ISAC reviewed nine Comprehensive Plans for withdrawal:
10. ISAC continued to review the Comprehensive Plans as requested.
11. Participation on the ISBE stakeholder group preparing Parents Guide.

12. Participation in interviews of Due Process Hearing Officers.

Appendix A: Letter to ISBE Ball Chatham CUSD 5 Comprehensive Plan for Withdraw

December 10, 2009

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 Ball Chatham CUSD #5 from the Sangamon Special Education District (SASED).

The ISAC Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee reviewed the Comprehensive Plan and reported the summary to the Council on December 9, 2009. On this date, a presentation and question/answer period was held with the Ball-Chatham School District Superintendent, Special Education Director, and parents of the School District whose children receive special education in the district. During the public comment portion of the meeting The Special Education Director and other stakeholders were given an opportunity to address the Council relative to withdraw.

On December 10, 2009, the ISAC carried a motion to recommend the ISBE request the Ball Chatham School District #5 provide the following information prior to the ISBE determination of approval for withdraw from SASED.

- Provision of services for Bi-lingual students
- Provision of services for secondary transition services
- Provision of services for assistive technology
- Provision of services for students with low incident disabilities

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Conran
Committee Chair: Comprehensive Planning Committee

Appendix B: Letter to ISBE Lake Zurich District 95 Comprehensive Plan for Withdraw

April 15, 2010

Dear Mr.. 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 Lake Zurich District #95 from the Special Education District of Lake County.

The ISAC Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee reviewed the Comprehensive Plan and reported the summary to the Council on April 14, 2010. On this date, a presentation and question/answer period was held with the Lake Zurich Special Education Director and Special Education Director of SEDOL. During the public comment portion of the meeting The Special Education Director and other stakeholders were given an opportunity to address the Council relative to withdraws.

On April 15, 2010, the ISAC carried a motion to recommend the ISBE request the Lake Zurich School District #95 provided the following information prior to the ISBE determination of approval for withdraw from SEDOL.

- ISBE seek further clarification regarding procedures for transitioning (moving) students with IEP's from grade to grade and building to building and a discussion of the extent to which this process is similar or different from those used for students with IEP's.
- ISBE seek further information regarding Autism programming within the district.
- ISBE seek further clarification on appropriate application of the ISBE policies and procedures relative to Least Restrictive Environments .
- ISBE seek further clarification on programming available for Bi-lingual students
- ISBE seek a long term plan from the district relative to Transition programming in the district.
- ISBE seek a plan for how the district will assess and identify actions to provide Professional Development for teachers
- Professional development for affording teachers with training that will assist to increase students in less restrictive environment.
- ISBE seek information relative to child find. There were concerns about minority children being placed into more restrictive environment.

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Respectfully,

Elizabeth Conran
Committee Chair: Comprehensive Planning Committee

Appendix C: Letter to ISBE Hiawatha CUSD #426 Comprehensive Plan for Withdraw

June 10, 2010

Dear Mr. 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 Plan for Special Education Services in the Hiawatha CUSD #426.. The ISAC Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee reviewed the Comprehensive Plan and reported the summary to the Council on June 9, 2010. On this date, a question/answer period was held with the Superintendent of Hiawatha CUSD #426. During this period stakeholders were given an opportunity to address the Council relative to withdraws.

On June 10, 2010, the ISAC carried a motion to recommend the ISBE seek the Hiawatha CUSD #426 provide the following information to the ISBE:

- Additional provisions for the full continuum of services.
- Additional information regarding provisions for special education students who are bi-lingual.
- Additional information regarding the districts provision for assistive technology.
- Provided resources to the district that are available around the state such as Project Choices

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Conran
Committee Chair: Comprehensive Planning Committee

Appendix D: Letter of Concerns in Regards to the Proposed Changes to Part 228: Transitional Bilingual Education.

April 30, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education for Students with Disabilities (ISAC), I would like to express concerns in regards to the proposed changes to Part 228: Transitional Bilingual Education. The elimination of the specific language in section 228.30D that addresses professional development is a concern for students with disabilities who are English language learners (“research-based methods and techniques for teaching students with limited English proficiency who also have disabilities...”) It is essential for educators working with this population of students to receive ongoing training to ensure best practices are utilized. Without provisions in the rules revision to address professional development in regards to students with disabilities, the concern exists that teachers may not have access to these imperative trainings. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dr. Jennifer Naddeo, Ph.D.
ISAC member
JenniferNaddeo@sd54.org

Appendix E: Letter of support for Proposed Changes to Part 24 - Standards for All Illinois Teachers

May 13, 2010

Illinois State Board of Education
Dr. Christopher Koch
100 North First Street
Springfield IL 62777-0001

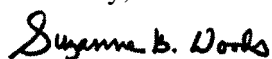
Dear Dr. Koch,

On behalf of the Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children With Disabilities (ISAC), I would like to take this opportunity to commend you and your staff for including students with disabilities and students with IEPs in the revised, updated, and proposed changes to Part 24 - Standards for All Illinois Teachers.

Particularly note worthy is the effort to embed across all standard areas the knowledge and skills indicators related to educating students with disabilities. We appreciate the thorough attention to students with IEPs and best educational practice across all areas related to planning and delivering instruction, assessment, managing the learning environment and other important areas of professional practice for all educators.

We look forward to ISBE's continued progressive and innovative philosophy for the education of children with disabilities.

Sincerely,



Susy Woods
ISAC Chairperson

Appendix F: Letter of support for the proposal submitted under the State Personnel Development Grant Program (CFDA 84.323)

June 28, 2010

Elizabeth Hanselman
Assistant Superintendent for Special Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 North First Street
Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001

Dear Ms. Hanselman:

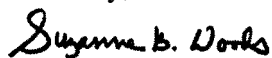
On behalf of the Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities (ISAC), I am pleased to offer support for the proposal submitted under the *State Personnel Development Grant Program (CFDA 84.323)*. This application is part of the effort in Illinois to improve results for students with disabilities and assure that all Illinois public school students have access to schools and classrooms with highly qualified and effective educators.

It is my understanding that the project will establish the Illinois Response to Intervention (RtI) Network, which will be a collaborative partnership of local education agencies, regional providers, institutions of higher education, and parent entities. The implementation of this network will result in systemic change and improvement in our personnel preparation and professional development system. The fact that the Illinois RtI Network will provide standardized professional development, technical assistance, and coaching to educators and parents will further enhance the systemic approach to professional development in the state.

By focusing the professional development on a multi-tiered model of instruction, intervention, and assessment, including RtI, the project will improve instruction and performance results for students with disabilities and other at-risk learners. Further, the establishment of a coaching cadre will result in direct support for school personnel in implementing this model at the district and school levels, which is critical to sustaining the associated research-based practices and achieving school improvement.

ISAC fully supports the Illinois *State Personnel Development Grant (CFDA 84.323)* project and looks forward to serving as one of the stakeholder groups to advise you and your staff on the project activities during the five-year grant period. The proposed project will provide a tremendous service to educators and parents as they work to improve results for children and youth with disabilities and other at-risk students in Illinois.

Sincerely,



Suzanne B. Woods
ISAC Chair

Appendix G: Presentation to State Board of Education Finance and Audit Committee FY 2011 Budget Hearing

Presentation to State Board of Education Finance and Audit Committee FY 2011 Budget Hearing

I am here on behalf of the Illinois State Advisory Council (ISAC) Education of Children with Disabilities. ISAC is responsible for advising the State Board of Education as well as the Governor and Legislature on Special Education in the state of Illinois. ISAC's mandate is to ensure appropriate special education services are provided to all students in Illinois. Our purpose today is to advocate for students by requesting that funding for Special Education be a priority for FY 2011.

The Illinois State Board of education has set the following goals for the schools and students of Illinois:

- Every student will demonstrate academic achievement and be prepared for success after high school.
- Every student will be supported by highly prepared and effective teachers and school leaders.
- Every school will offer a safe and healthy learning environment for all students.

The ISAC commends ISBE for these goals and the corresponding strategies they set to meet these goals. We acknowledge that these goals are for all students including students served through special education. We recognize however that significant resources must be allocated to special education services if these goals are to be met for all students. If school districts are expected to provide free and appropriate public education services in the least restrictive environment for all children with disabilities including those with the most intensive needs, the State of Illinois must look for ways to adequately and equitably fund all mandated Special Education categoricals for the FY 2011 and into the future.

We would like the committee to acknowledge the regressive nature of the funding formulas related to personnel reimbursement, and strongly advocate for increases to the reimbursement rate. Reimbursement rates are decades old and haven't kept pace with inflation. We recommend tying personnel reimbursement to an index such as beginning teacher salaries, to keep pace with the increased special education costs on an annual basis. The \$9,000 reimbursement rate received for certified special education teachers in FY 10 indicates only a \$1000 increase since 1985. In 1985 the \$8000 reimbursement represented 35% of the average teacher salary, and in 2008 the \$9,000 reimbursement represents 14% of the average teacher salary. Despite increased demands on school districts to meet Special Education needs, state and federal funding remains stagnant.

“On July 26, 2007, House Joint Resolution 0024 (HJR 24) was adopted by the Illinois General Assembly. HJR creates a task force to study special education funding and to make a recommendation as to how the State can increase special education funding and ease the financial burden on school districts”. It is our understanding that a draft report has been completed and that the report may impact how special education is funded in all of Illinois whereby impacting children with disabilities. We respectfully request that ISAC receive a copy of the Taskforce report as soon as it is completed and have ample time to review and make recommendations to the ISBE prior to any action being taken relative to funding formulas in Illinois.

On behalf of the ISAC we urge your support for full funding of mandated Special Education categoricals as well as an increase to personnel reimbursement for the FY 2011 and into the future.

Respectfully submitted On Behalf of the Illinois State Advisory Council by,

Mike Otte