

Update #4
January 2004

UPDATE ON TEACHER EDUCATION

Issues

Because of the high degree of activity in the area of teacher preparation, **ICCB staff will be issuing periodic updates on current projects and initiatives that impact the community college system.**

The following information is provided for your review.

Please direct questions or comments to Rebecca Miller at (217) 558-4682 or rmiller@iccb.state.il.us

Previous updates are available on ICCB's website at:
http://www.iccb.org/HTML/what/pro_plan_accountability.html

Paraprofessional (Teacher Aide/Teacher Assistant) Test Preparation

The Paraprofessional Test Preparation Project – ICCB's latest collaboration with ISBE – has made significant progress since it was launched in May 2003. In fact, **Illinois was recently rated one of only two states which were "very well prepared" to meet the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act's deadline for ensuring that paraprofessionals meet new federal standards.** The full report, published by the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), can be found at:
<http://www.aft.org/psrp/certification/Midtermreport/Index.html>

Illinois' efforts have focused on the creation of a statewide test preparation curriculum for the two state-endorsed paraprofessional exams: the ETS Parapro and ACT WorkKeys. These two exams were adopted in response to the third option in NCLB regarding paraprofessional qualifications.

The curriculum is intended to serve as a diagnostic tool for identifying academic strengths and weaknesses in math, reading, and writing, and strengthening test-taking skills as well as subject area knowledge. A test preparation Curriculum Guide was developed and provided to all community colleges and Regional Offices of Education in order to provide consistent, statewide test preparation for all paraprofessionals in Illinois. It was piloted at four sites in the summer of 2003 and became available for use as an instructional tool in the fall of 2003.

Funding was made available to support the delivery of the course throughout the state. Partnerships of community colleges, ROEs, school districts, and education unions were invited to submit proposals for course delivery support. All 24 partnership proposals (covering 99% of the state) were funded to cover the costs of faculty salaries, facilities, and materials for the course offerings in their areas. As a result, Illinois paraprofessionals are able to access the test preparation courses tuition-free in the 2003-2004 school year.

Illinois' curriculum has received recognition from other states, as well. To date, copies of the Curriculum Guide have been provided to education representatives in Massachusetts, Missouri, Kansas, and Georgia. The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) plans to use it in Nevada and Connecticut, and the U.S. Department of Education recently requested more information about the initiative to share with other states, as appropriate.

An online version of the curriculum is being developed to allow distance-learning opportunities for paraprofessionals. It is anticipated that this internet-based tool will be available in March 2004.

Information about WorkKeys and Parapro test sites, as well as test preparation course schedules and locations, can be accessed at: www.iccb.org/HTML/what/pro_plan_accountability.html

Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) Degree

The Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) degree model in Secondary Mathematics was completed in the fall of 2003. The model, along with a list of Guiding Principles, was approved by ICCB in October 2003 and by IBHE in December 2003.

The model includes general education, professional education, and mathematics coursework. Sample syllabi for the five professional education courses have been created, as well as a "super matrix" showing alignment of the five professional education courses with the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards, Illinois Core Language Arts Standards, and the Illinois Core Technology Standards. A mathematics matrix was also developed to show alignment with the Illinois Mathematics Content-Area Standards for Teachers. All of the documents related to the AAT Secondary Mathematics Model can be accessed through the following link: www.iccb.state.il.us/html/what/aat.html

ICCB is developing application guidelines for colleges that wish to offer the AAT degree in Secondary Mathematics. It is anticipated that these will be released in January or February, 2004. Once these have been received, colleges may submit new degree proposals.

Revisions to the Secondary Science model are in progress and should be completed in the near future. Recommendations for other education majors are expected to follow.

ISBE Proposed Rule Changes – Teacher Certification/Paraprofessional Approval

The Illinois State Board of Education is proposing a number of Administrative Rule changes regarding teacher certification and paraprofessional approval. The set of proposed amendments to Part 25 (Certification) was published in the Illinois Register on January 2, 2004.

Colleges which offer paraprofessional programming may be particularly interested in the changes being recommended for paraprofessional approval. One of the changes would provide state approval to those who pass the ACT WorkKeys or ETS Parapro assessment (in lieu of the current requirement for 30 hours of postsecondary coursework). Information regarding Part 25 rule changes can be downloaded at: <http://www.isbe.net/rules/proposed/default.htm>. Section 25.510, beginning on page 96, contains the changes relative to paraprofessionals.

The public comment period extends through March 2, 2004. Feedback on the proposed rule changes can be submitted via e-mail (addressed to rules@isbe.net) or via standard mail (addressed to Sally Vogl, Agency Rules Coordinator, ISBE, 100 North First Street - W-475, Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001).

Illinois Basic Skills Test Preparation Initiative: Consortium for Enhancing Teacher Education in the Community College

Seven community colleges are participating in a project titled, "Consortium for Enhancing Teacher Education in the Community College." The effort, co-directed by Dr. Linda Uzureau at Prairie State College and Dr. Judith Marwick at Moraine Valley Community College, focuses on developing a model for Illinois community colleges to prepare their pre-service teacher education students to pass the Basic Skills Test — at a success rate equal to, or higher than, the average for all undergraduate students in the state of Illinois who take the test. The initiative has six specific objectives:

- To educate community college arts and sciences faculty and administrators about the Basic Skills Test (BST);
- To align the IAI General Education Core Curriculum (GECC) and outcomes assessment measures with the 18 standards of the enhanced BST;
- To revise strategies and materials for advising teacher education students to include specific information about the BST;
- To develop methods and materials for a Basic Skills Test Preparation workshop to prepare community college students to pass the test;
- To develop baseline data on community college student performance on the enhanced BST; and
- To disseminate the model (advising materials, curriculum, assessment tools, and test preparation materials) to all community colleges in the state of Illinois.

The seven participating colleges are Illinois Valley Community College, Harper College, Kishwaukee College, Moraine Valley Community College, Prairie State College, South Suburban College, and Truman College. Each institution has identified an administrator with responsibility for teacher education as the project coordinator for the college. Each college has assembled a six-member campus team – the campus coordinator plus five faculty members: two in English, two in mathematics, and one in teacher education. The project was launched in October of 2003 and will continue throughout 2004.

Illinois Enhanced Basic Skills Test — Score Report Update

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will be including a list of Illinois community colleges in the 04-05 certification test registration bulletin and will provide examinees an opportunity to have their Basic Skills Test scores sent to their community college. ISBE is planning to contact each community college to identify an individual on campus who will be the recipient of the score reports.

Illinois Early Childhood Career Lattice Project

The Career Lattice effort continues to focus on the development of a comprehensive career lattice and information system for early childhood students and practitioners. Its goals include defining roles, qualifications, and competencies across the early childhood field, creating smooth pathways to career preparation and professional development, and improving developmental outcomes for children.

The project is comprised of the following committees and subcommittees:

- The **Professional Development Advisory Committee (PDAC)** is responsible for developing recommendations related to the design and implementation of the career information system;
- The **Steering Committee** guides PDAC activities and ensures coordination among subcommittees;
- The **Higher Education Subcommittee** is responsible for developing a 21-semester hour "Common Core" of transferable early childhood courses and working to improve articulation across early childhood degree programs;
- The **Competencies Task Force**, which reports to the Higher Education Subcommittee, is responsible for developing competencies for all roles and levels found within the career lattice;
- The **Supports and Outreach Subcommittee** meets with constituent groups to inform the design of and build support for the career lattice, conducts research needed to secure buy-in from key stakeholders, and develops marketing materials;
- The **Level 1 Credential Subcommittee** is responsible for developing an entry-level training curriculum leading to a Level 1 Credential;
- The **Career Information System Subcommittee** is guiding the development of a website to house training calendars and other career information; and
- The **Infant/Toddler Credential Subcommittee** is responsible for completing the design of the Infant/Toddler Credential.

PDAC and its subcommittees meet every other month. For more information on the Career Lattice project, access the following link: <http://www.ilchildcare.org/providers/cl/overview.htm>

General Education Standards for Special Education Teacher Candidates

The Illinois State Board of Education recently announced new rules establishing general curricular standards in math, reading, and natural and social sciences for special education teachers. Beginning July 1, 2005, approval of any teacher preparation program in special education will be based on the congruence of that program/course content with the standards in these rules. Beginning on October 1, 2006, the examination(s) required for issuance of a special education teaching certificate will cover these standards. The new standards can be accessed at: <http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/pdfs/27ark.pdf> Click on Section 27.350 – General Curricular Standards for Special Education Teachers.

National Commission on Teaching and America's Future (NCTAF)

State Partners Newsnet – December 2003, Volume 1, Issue 5

State Spotlight

The Illinois Education Research Council (IERC) released a report using data from the Illinois Teacher Study that provides results about teacher satisfaction with their teacher preparation courses and their subsequent participation in induction activities. IERC also assessed the relationship between induction participation and intentions to remain in teaching.

The report explores the early professional development activities of teachers who received initial certification in 1999/2000 (Starters) and teachers with up to five years of teaching experience (Stayers) in the Illinois Public Schools. The report can be accessed at: http://ierc.siue.edu/documents/IERC_03_2.pdf