

**APPROVE THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS FOR SCHOOLS ON THE ILLINOIS STATE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION ACADEMIC WATCH LIST**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:**

Approve the school improvement plans for schools on the Illinois State Board of Education Academic Watch List.

**DESCRIPTION:** Schools that were on the Illinois State Board of Education 1998 Academic Early Warning List (AEWL) and failed to make adequate yearly progress are currently on the Academic Watch List. There are 46 Chicago Public Schools (31 high schools and 15 elementary schools) on the list. The Academic Watch List is mandated in the School Code under ILCS 5/2-3.25. A school district that has one or more schools on the Academic Watch List must submit a revised School Improvement Plan for approval by the State Superintendent of Education setting forth the district's expectations for removing each school from the Academic Watch List and for improving student performance in that school.

The School Code requires that each school on the Academic Watch List shall have a school improvement panel appointed by the State Superintendent of Education. The 46 panels in the Chicago Public Schools are chaired by the Area Instructional Officers with the following members; the school principal, a state board representative, a local school council member, a representative from the Office of Research, Evaluation and Accountability, and a member from outside of the education field but familiar with educational issues. The panels are to assist the schools in the development and implementation of a revised School Improvement Plan, make progress reports and comments to the State Superintendent of Education, and have the authority to review and approve all actions of the board of education that pertain to implementation of the revised School Improvement Plan.

In early February 2003 the Area Instructional Officers and schools formed panels and reviewed drafts of the School Improvement Plans for their respective schools. The plans were developed in consultation with the staffs of the affected schools and the local school councils. The panels, chaired by the Area Instructional Officers, ensured the quality of the plans, alignment to Chicago Public Schools initiatives, and consistency. All of the 46 plans were reviewed and approved by each school's respective panel by April 25, 2003. The revised School Improvement Plans must now be approved by the Board of Education under Article 34 of the School Code. Following that approval, the plans shall be submitted to the State Superintendent of Education for approval.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:** Not applicable.

**LSC REVIEW:** Local School Council approval is not applicable to this report.

**FINANCIAL:** No cost to the Chicago Public Schools.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

Inspector General – Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Chicago Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.

Conflicts – The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3 which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of office.

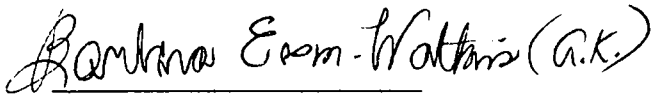
Indebtedness – The Board's Indebtedness Policy adopted July 26, 1995 (95-0726-EX3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics – The Board's Ethics Code adopted September 27, 1995 (95-0927-RU3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.


Contingent Liability – The agreement shall contain the clause that any expenditure beyond the current fiscal year is deemed a contingent liability, subject to appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year budget(s).

**Approved for Consideration:**

**Respectfully Submitted**



**Barbara Eason Watkins  
Chief Education Officer**

  
**Arne Duncan** *MPD*  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**Approved as to legal form:** *MM*



**Ruth Moscovitch  
General Counsel**