

September 24, 2003

**ADOPT NEW POLICY ON THE CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS'
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ILLINOIS LEARNING STANDARDS
AND RESCIND BOARD REPORT 97-0528-PO2
POLICY ON CHICAGO ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Chicago Board of Education adopt the Policy on the Chicago Public Schools' Implementation of the Illinois Learning Standards and, upon adoption of the policy, rescind Board Report 97-0528-PO2, Policy on Chicago Academic Standards.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to implement the Illinois Learning Standards ("ILS"), a set of rigorous academic standards in the curricular areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social science, foreign languages, the fine arts, physical education and health, as the guide for curriculum and instruction in the Chicago Public Schools ("CPS"). This policy is designed to ensure that all CPS students are educated in a consistent manner with regard to curriculum and instruction. This policy also is designed to ensure that all students have equal access to appropriate curriculum, which is assessed in alignment with ILS, so that CPS achieves its foremost priority of continuing to improve student achievement.

ISSUES:

Current thinking in the field of education, which is reflected in legislation such as the No Child Left Behind Act, supports the premise that education and training are most effective when clear standards are set for student achievement. Children learn best when clearly understandable learning expectations are established for them, and they are given varied opportunities to demonstrate their levels of mastery and achievement.

POLICY TEXT:

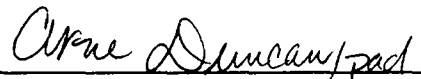
In order to realize the goal of continuing to promote systemwide improvement in student achievement, CPS will align the goals of its education plan, "Every Child, Every School," with the ILS. Implementing the ILS allows CPS to develop new capacity at the classroom, school, and district levels to ensure that all students are provided superior instructional programs and supportive classroom environments that will allow them to meet challenging academic standards and develop high learning aspirations. In a decentralized school system, the central administration's role will be to provide strong leadership, an infrastructure of support, and strong systems of accountability.

To support the systemwide implementation of standards-based instruction, as set forth by ILS, the Office of Standards-Based Instruction will design training sessions for all CPS curriculum offices, the Area Instruction Officers, instructional facilitators, specialists and coaches, principals, and teachers who are responsible for establishing and sustaining the CPS community of learners.

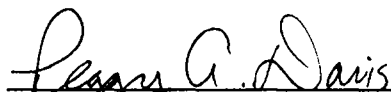
A copy of the Illinois Learning Standards is available on the Illinois State Board of Education website and at CPS Office of Standards-Based Instruction.

Approved for Consideration:


Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Approved:


Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Noted:


Peggy A. Davis
Chief of Staff

Approved as to Legal Form:


Ruth M. Moscovitch
General Counsel