

**RECONSTITUTE HARVARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL****THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Chicago Board of Education approve the reconstitution of John Harvard Elementary School ("Harvard") (Unit 3800), located at 7525 South Harvard Avenue, due to chronic academic underperformance, and the removal and replacement of its staff, including the principal.

**DESCRIPTION:**

Pursuant to Section 5/34-8.3(d) of the Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 5/34-8.3(d), and following the opportunity for a public hearing, the Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Public Schools ("CEO") may recommend to the Board the reconstitution of a school on probation for a least one year for academic reasons and the removal and replacement of its entire staff, including the principal.

**Reconstitution Criteria**

The CEO employed the following criteria to identify schools for possible reconstitution at the end of the 2006-2007 school year due to chronic academic underperformance:

1. **Probation:** The school has been on probation for at least one year.
2. **2006 ISAT Composite Scores:** The school has a 2005-2006 Illinois Standards Achievement Test ("ISAT") Composite Score of 30% or less of students meeting or exceeding state standards.
3. **4-Year Average ISAT Scores:** The school has a 4-year average ISAT Composite Score of 25% or less of students meeting or exceeding state standards.
4. **Student Gains in Reading:** The school has less than 30% of students making expected year-to-year increases on standardized tests from the 2004-2005 school year to the 2005-2006 school year in reading.
5. **Student Gains in Math:** The school has less than 30% of students making expected year-to-year increases on standardized tests from the 2004-2005 school year to 2005-2006 school year in math.

Harvard Elementary School satisfied the school reconstitution criteria for the following reasons:

1. **Probation:** The school has been on probation for five (5) consecutive years since the 2002-2003 school year, including the 2006-2007 school year.
2. **2006 ISAT Composite Scores:** The school's 2005-2006 ISAT Composite Score is 27.5% of students meeting or exceeding state standards.
3. **4-Year Average ISAT Scores:** Over the past four school years, the school's ISAT Composite Scores were: 22.6% in 2002-2003; 22.4% in 2003-2004; 14.7% in 2004-2005; and 27.5% in 2005-2006. These scores give the school a 4-year average ISAT Composite Score of 21.8%.
4. **Student Gains in Reading:** In reading, 27.6% of students made expected gains from the 2004-2005 school year to the 2005-2006 school year.
5. **Student Gains in Math:** In math, 22.2% of students made expected gains from the 2004-2005 school year to the 2005-2006 school year.

**Public Hearing**

Following proper notice, the public hearing to receive public comment on the proposed reconstitution of Harvard was held on April 11, 2007. An independent hearing officer appointed by the Chief Executive Officer presided at the hearing and received comment and supporting documentation. The hearing was transcribed by a certified court reporter. The hearing officer has prepared and submitted a report of the proceedings to the Chief Executive Officer. A copy of the Hearing Officer's Report is available for review. After receiving the Hearing Officer's Report, the Chief Executive Officer has determined to recommend that the Board approve the reconstitution of Harvard Elementary School at the end of the 2006-2007 school year.

**LSC IMPLICATIONS:**

As Harvard Elementary School will remain on probation after its reconstitution, the powers and duties of the Harvard Local School Council with respect to the School Improvement Plan and School Expenditure Plan will remain the same after reconstitution. As the result of the removal and replacement of the current principal pursuant to section 5/34-8.3(d) of the Illinois School Code, the Harvard Local School Council will have no authority to select a new four-year contract principal until the school is removed from probation.

**PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:**

Pursuant to 105 ILSC 5/34-8.3(d)(4), all Harvard employees, including the principal, will be removed and replaced in accordance with Board rules, policies and applicable collective bargaining agreements, if any. All staff members will be given an opportunity to re-apply for positions at the school.

**Approved for Consideration:**

**Approved:**




**Barbara Eason-Watkins**  
Chief Education Officer



**Arne Duncan**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Within Appropriation:**

**Approved as to Legal Form:**

  
**John Maiorca**  
Chief Financial Officer  
**Patrick J. Rocks**  
General Counsel