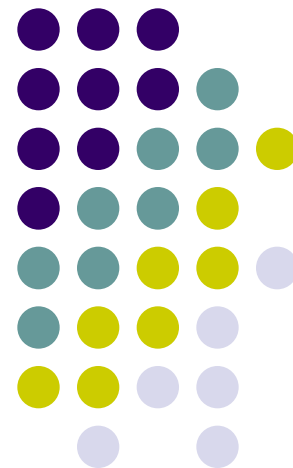


Illinois School Leader Task Force Recommendations

Debbie Meisner Bertauski
Illinois Board of Higher Education
August 6, 2008



Background

Commission on School Leader Preparation



- August 2005: Commission Established by IBHE
 - Comprised of leaders from K-12 schools, colleges & universities, business & professional education organizations, ISBE & IBHE
 - Charge included:
 - Reviewing *Educating School Leaders* (Levine, 2006)
 - Examining school leader preparation in Illinois
 - Proposing strategies to improve preparation

Background

Commission on School Leader Preparation



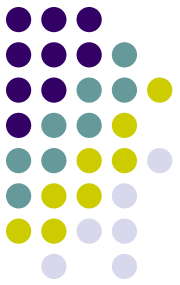
- August 2006: *School Leader Preparation: A Blueprint for Change*
 - Report Included 3 Major Goals:
 - Recruit Strategically
 - Focus Preparation Programs
 - Improve Statewide Assessment & Coordination

Joint Resolution from the Illinois General Assembly



- July 2007 HJ0066
 - Resolved that ISBE, IBHE & the Office of the Governor shall jointly appoint a task force to recommend a sequence of strategic steps to implement improvements in school leadership preparation in Illinois, based on, but not limited to, the measures detailed in “Commission on School Leader Preparation: Blueprint for Change.”

Charge to the Illinois School Leader Task Force



- Prepare a report that:
 - Reviews and prioritizes the findings and recommendations of the *Blueprint for Change*.
 - Examines data collected by external sources, including the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) state benchmarking report and the Illinois Council of Professors of Education Administration (ICPEA) gap analysis, as well as other relevant data sources.

Charge to the Illinois School Leader Task Force



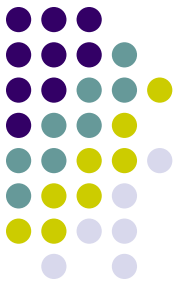
- Examine data from exemplary educational leadership preparation programs and other relevant sources in forming an action plan that considers first and foremost the learning achievement needs of schools in rural, suburban, and urban districts
- Consider existing and emerging federal, state, and district policies that inform how leadership preparation may contribute to a leadership continuum for aspiring, new, and experienced school leaders.

Illinois School Leader Task Force Recommendations



- System
 - State Policies
 - Formal Partnerships
 - Refocused Principal Preparation Programs
- Sequence
- Implementation

Recommendation 1: State Policies



State policies must set high standards for school leader certification that align principal preparation, early career mentoring, ongoing professional development, and master principal recognition with those standards, so that by 2013 all new principal preparation would be taking place through programs approved under these new standards.



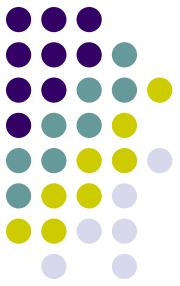
State Policies Action Steps

- New Structure for Leadership Certification and Endorsements
- School Leadership Standards
- Preparation Program Approval
- State School Leadership Exam
- Support for Master's Degree-Level Programs
- Development of Teachers and Teacher Leaders

Recommendation 2: Formal Partnerships



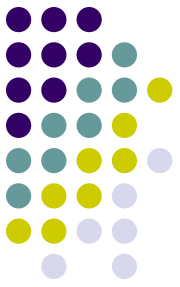
Formal partnerships must be established between school districts and principal preparation programs affiliated with state-accredited institutions to support principal preparation and development.



Formal Partnerships Action Steps

- District/Program Collaboration
- Partnership – Based Programs
 - Meet State Standards
 - Leadership Needs of School Districts
 - Continuum of Principal Development

Recommendation 3: Refocused Principal Preparation



Refocused principal preparation programs must demonstrate that they develop and rigorously assess in aspiring principals *the capacities that are most likely to improve student learning in PreK-12 schools*. These capacities should (a) form the heart of the new Illinois School Leadership Standards previously recommended and (b) reflect the vision of school leadership identified in the Illinois Distinguished Principal Program.

Refocused Principal Preparation Programs

Action Steps



- Partnership between school districts and state-accredited institutions
- Highly selective admissions process
- Strategic use of high-performing, current or former administrative practitioners
- Extended & supervised residencies
- Systematic assessment of candidates and grads
- Mentoring & early professional development



Resources

www.ibhe.org/SchoolLeadership

www.isbe.net/certification/default.htm