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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, School leadership is second only to classroom instruction among school-related factors influencing student learning; and

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WHEREAS, The 95th General Assembly adopted House Joint Resolution 66, which directed the State Board of Education, the Board of Higher Education, and the Office of the Governor to jointly appoint a task force to recommend a sequence of strategic steps to implement improvements in school leadership preparation in this State; and

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WHEREAS, The Illinois School Leader Task Force submitted a report to the General Assembly in February of 2008 outlining specific strategic steps to reform Illinois school leader preparation programs with the goal of increasing school improvement through instructional leadership; therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that based upon the recommendations set forth by the Illinois School Leader Task Force report, the State Board of Education, in collaboration with the Board of Higher Education, shall prepare legislative recommendations to restructure school leader preparation and certification

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1 programs in this State; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That that these recommendations may include, but  
3 not be limited to, the following:

4 (1) reviewing the educator certification structure to  
5 more accurately include a professional educator license to  
6 reflect essential skills required of school leaders,  
7 specifically those of pre-kindergarten through secondary  
8 school principals (PK-12);

9 (2) aligning redesigned programs with national  
10 principal preparation standards;

11 (3) increasing certification and licensure  
12 requirements to include 4 years of teaching or school  
13 service personnel experience on a valid and appropriate  
14 certificate;

15 (4) ensuring appropriate faculty resources;

16 (5) establishing quality partnerships with PK-12  
17 school districts;

18 (6) strengthening candidates' internships and  
19 residencies;

20 (7) revising formative and summative assessments;

21 (8) designating principal candidates graduating from  
22 redesigned school leader preparation programs and  
23 successfully passing the State performance-based  
24 assessment to receive an endorsement specific to PK-12  
25 principalship;

1           (9) enabling educators currently holding a general  
2           administrative endorsement to retain the endorsement and  
3           continue to serve as a principal;

4           (10) directing all institutions of higher education  
5           that prepare principals to submit their redesigned  
6           programs for State Teacher Certification Board approval no  
7           later than July of 2011; and

8           (11) stipulating that all principal candidates must  
9           complete a redesigned and approved principal preparation  
10          program and pass the State performance-based assessment  
11          beginning in 2013 to receive a State principal endorsement;  
12          and be it further

13          RESOLVED, That work will already be underway to begin the  
14          redesign; and be it further

15          RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education shall present  
16          its legislative recommendations to the General Assembly by  
17          February of 2010; and be it further

18          RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
19          delivered to the Chairperson of the State Board of Education  
20          and the Chairperson of the Board of Higher Education.