



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The overarching goal of the federal No Child Left  
3 Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 is to enhance student achievement and  
4 academic success and to make schools accountable for the  
5 students' academic achievements; and

6 WHEREAS, Individual states are responsible for  
7 interpreting NCLB mandates in their own laws; and

8 WHEREAS, NCLB requires individual states to design and  
9 implement testing systems, set academic standards and hold  
10 schools accountable for meeting those standards, define what  
11 constitutes a "highly qualified" teacher and establish their  
12 own plans for ensuring that there is a "highly qualified"  
13 teacher in every classroom, and determine the allocation of  
14 millions of federal education funds to improve student  
15 achievement; and

16 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education is currently in the  
17 process of presenting changes in the Illinois Accountability  
18 Workbook to the U.S. Department of Education for approval to  
19 provide more flexibility to schools and school districts under  
20 NCLB; and

21 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education is proposing 5  
22 aspects of change regarding subgroup size to ensure that the  
23 State's accountability system is more reliable and valid, which  
24 include considering overall changes in subgroup size, changing  
25 the subgroup size for LEP students, changing the subgroup size  
26 for students with disabilities, considering changes in  
27 district subgroup numbers, and considering the use of a  
28 confidence interval; and

29 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education is also proposing to  
30 change how districts are identified as not making adequate

1 yearly progress (AYP) so that no district will be determined to  
2 not meet AYP unless one or more of its schools or one or more of  
3 its underlying grade spans have not made AYP in the same  
4 subject area; and

5 WHEREAS, Other proposed changes include redefining a full  
6 academic year for the purposes of calculating AYP so that  
7 students must be enrolled in a school district as of May 1st  
8 and remain in the school district through the next year's State  
9 assessment; using an adapted assessment with a modified  
10 readability level as part of its State assessment system; and  
11 using the same subgroup in the determination of AYP; therefore,  
12 be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
14 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
15 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the members of the House and  
16 Senate support the State Board of Education and their proposed  
17 modifications to the Illinois Accountability Workbook; and be  
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That we urge the U.S. Department of Education to  
20 approve these modifications; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented  
22 to the State Board of Education and the U.S. Department of  
23 Education.