



SR0301

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate recognize the
3 critical importance of reading proficiency for children to
4 prepare for college and careers in the 21st century workplace;
5 and

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WHEREAS, The most important period for development of
7 reading proficiency is kindergarten through grade 2; and

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois in 2000 authorized and
9 funded the development of a multifaceted, classroom-based
10 literacy assessment that provides data to design meaningful
11 instruction in order to identify students in need of additional
12 attention and to enable all children to meet the Illinois
13 Learning Standards as measured by the Illinois Standards
14 Achievement Test in grade 3; and

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WHEREAS, This assessment, known as the Illinois Snapshot of
16 Early Literacy (ISEL), was developed collaboratively by
17 Illinois institutions of higher education, classroom teachers,
18 and administrators throughout our State; and

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WHEREAS, ISEL has been used beneficially to help guide
20 instruction for thousands of Illinois schoolchildren, thus
21 proving its value in literacy development and subsequent

1 advanced reading skills; and

2 WHEREAS, ISEL is owned by the State Board of Education; and

3 WHEREAS, ISEL is research-based, valid and reliable,
4 endorsed by national literacy experts, and aligns closely to
5 the Illinois Learning Standards and Common Core State
6 Standards, which have been adopted by Illinois; and

7 WHEREAS, ISEL is made available by this State to all
8 Illinois schools in paper form free of charge; and

9 WHEREAS, ISEL is complemented by a sophisticated
10 technology platform that was funded by this State, the Chicago
11 Community Trust, and other charitable foundations and was
12 developed by the Center, Resources for Teaching and Learning,
13 an Illinois 501(c)(3) organization that has worked closely with
14 the State Board of Education and other State agencies for the
15 past 40 years; and

16 WHEREAS, ISEL can be administered by school districts at a
17 substantially lower cost per student than any other
18 technology-based commercial assessment instrument, thus saving
19 schools a substantial amount of money; and

20 WHEREAS, ISEL was designed by this State and its

1 collaborators to work effectively with any computer operating
2 system and mobile device, thus further reducing the cost of
3 using this instrument; and

4 WHEREAS, Illinois has adopted the Common Core State
5 Standards and is a member of the Partnership for Assessment of
6 Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC); and

7 WHEREAS, Other states have received recognition for the
8 national use of assessments and other diagnostic instruments
9 developed with their own resources; and

10 WHEREAS, PARCC plans to develop a K-2 formative assessment
11 for early literacy; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we endorse and
14 encourage the use of ISEL by Illinois schools and by the
15 additional 21 states within the PARCC consortium; and be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That the State of Illinois formally encourages
18 ISBE to make ISEL available to the other states within the
19 PARCC consortium so that their students and teachers may
20 benefit from this excellent assessment, developed in Illinois
21 by Illinois early literacy experts, institutions of higher

1 learning, educators, and administrators; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
3 delivered to the Chairperson of the State Board of Education
4 and the PARCC governing board.