

August 22, 2012

Dear Educator,

As of September 1, Illinois public school systems will begin to implement changes in performance evaluation processes, as required by state law. Implementation of these new rules will be complete by September 2016.

These changes ultimately will mean your performance evaluations ratings will be based on an instructional framework of standards aligned to the Illinois Professional Teaching or School Leader Standards for professional practice and will incorporate measures of student growth.

Thoughtfully designed and successfully implemented performance evaluations have the potential to provide educators with more opportunities to reflect on their practice, constructive feedback, and aligned professional development and support.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is working closely with an advisory group of 30 Illinois teachers, administrators, union leaders, higher education representatives, and other stakeholders to provide input and monitor the development and implementation of policies and programs concerning performance evaluation changes.

For more information about this group – the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC) – visit the website at <http://www.isbe.net/PEAC/default.htm>.

District administrators, school leaders, and others who will evaluate principals and teachers must undergo rigorous training to pre-qualify them as evaluators and ensure they are able to demonstrate evaluator competencies established by ISBE to assess professional practice; provide feedback to principals and teachers; and, when required by state law, determine student growth attributable to individual teachers and principals.

The Illinois Performance Evaluation Growth Through Learning training and assessment has been developed by the CEC Partnership Group (Consortium for Educational Change, Center for the Study of Educational Policy at Illinois State University, DuPage Regional Office of Education, The Danielson Group, Value-Added Research Center at the University of Wisconsin) with input from education

More information on the Performance Evaluation Growth Through Learning Project can be found at: www.GrowthThroughLearningIllinois.org



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stakeholder organizations throughout Illinois. Together, these organizations have prepared the enclosed informational tools for your understanding of performance.

We invite you to share this information with your peers.

For additional information about Growth Through Learning, please visit our website at www.GrowthThroughLearningIllinois.org.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Jane Morris". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mary Jane Morris
CEC Executive Director