STATE OF ILLINOIS
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

In re:

A PETITION TO FORM AN OPTIONAL ELEMENTARY UNIT DISTRICT WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF LICK CREEK COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 16, ANNA COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 37, JONESBORO COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 43 AND ANNA JONESBORO COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 81

ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION

Pursuant to Section 11E-50 of the School Code, I received on December 2, 2011, the record of the proceedings regarding the proposed formation of an optional elementary unit district within the territory of Lick Creek Community Consolidated School District 16, Anna Community Consolidated School District 37, Jonesboro Community Consolidated School District 43 and Anna Jonesboro Community High School District 81.

I have reviewed the petition, the record of the hearing, and the written order of the Regional Superintendent, and based upon the record, I make the following findings and conclusions.

FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

1. The petition was filed in the Office of the Regional Superintendent of Schools of Alexander/Johnson/Massac/Pulaski/Union Counties on October 11, 2011. An amended petition was filed on October 27, 2011. Notice was given and a hearing was convened in accordance with Article 11E of the School Code.

2. The Regional Superintendent of Schools issued a denial of the petition on December 1, 2011.

3. The record indicates that the petition:

   a) requests the submission of the proposition at the regular scheduled election (on March 20, 2012) for the purpose of voting for or against the establishment of an optional elementary unit district in the territory;

   b) requests the election of board members at a subsequent election to the proposition to create a new district;

   c) describes the territory comprising the proposed district;
d) sets the maximum tax rates for educational, operations and maintenance, and special education purposes the proposed district shall be authorized to levy, indicating K through 8 purposes rates and 9 through 12 purposes rates, as required by statute;

e) also sets the maximum tax rate for transportation purposes, as required by statute, indicating K through 8 purposes rate and 9 through 12 purposes rate, as permitted;

f) describes how supplementary State deficit difference payments made under subsection (c) of Section 11E-135 will be allocated among the new district or districts proposed to be formed;

g) was filed by Petitioners constituting at least 50 legal resident voters or 10% of the legal resident voters, whichever is less, residing within each affected district; and

h) designates a Committee of Ten of the petitioners.

4. The record indicates that the territory described in the petition is substantially coterminous and territory comprising at least 51% of the equalized assessed valuation of the high school district is subject to a combined high school and elementary maximum annual authorized tax rate for educational purposes of 4.0% or less.

As reported by the proponents of the petition, the formation of an optional elementary unit district will result in the following:

a) increased opportunity for curriculum alignment.

b) the ability to keep current school facilities in use.

c) the potential for increased efficiencies and decreased redundancies within the transportation program.

d) cost savings through the elimination of duplicative services.
DECISION

Having reviewed the petition, transcript of the hearing and supporting evidence, and the Regional Superintendent's decision, and taking into consideration the school needs and conditions of the affected districts and in the area adjacent thereto, the division of funds and assets that will result from the action described in the petition, the best interests of the schools of the area, and the best interests and the educational welfare of the pupils residing therein, I hereby approve the petition. Approval of this petition will allow the submission of the proposition at the regular scheduled election on March 20, 2012, for the purpose of voting for or against the establishment of an optional elementary unit district in the territory.

[Signature]

Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

DATED: 12-23-11

This is a final administrative order and is subject to review under the provisions of the Administrative Review Law, 735 ILCS 5/3-101 et seq.