

Durflinger heads governor's panel

Group will hopes to make recommendation on regional offices of education in April

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Springfield - where they are likely to sit down most often to accommodate the number of lawmakers sitting on the commission. Durflinger himself is staying mum on any opinions he brings to the table, since "being the chair I need to be somewhat neutral on this until we get further into the process."

Peoria County Regional Superintendent Gerald Brookhart has previously said that he expects the panel to recommend consolidating the number of offices statewide from the roughly 50 in existence today.

Durflinger accompanied Quinn on a trade mission to China last September and "on the last day I offered my services if anything needed to be done," an offer that resonated with the governor.

"The governor felt his extensive background in education made him an excellent choice to serve on the commission," spokeswoman Annie Thompson said of Durflinger. Durflinger "has done a significant amount on school leadership and school consolidation," particularly with his work as co-director of Illinois State University's Center for the Study on Education Policy.

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