

Seasons Greetings



Center for the Study of Education Policy (CSEP)

- This month, CSEP staff have been presenting to a series of regional meetings between two year and four year colleges regarding the recommendations by the Early Childhood Advisory Committee (ECAG) regarding teacher preparation program standards for the new Early Childhood Endorsement. The recommendations from ECAG are being finalized and will be shared in the near future. CSEP and ISBE staff are also working on pulling together all materials from the committee's work onto a web site hosted by ISBE, including a dissemination piece that highlights the ECAG recommendations. These materials will be shared in the near future. In the meantime, attached is the power point presentation from the presentation given by CSEP staff Laura Kalmes, Lisa Hood, and Erika Hunt (see attached document).
- The P-20 Council Committee on Teacher and Leadership Effectiveness is meeting on Wednesday, December 18th to finalize the scope of work for a Request for Proposal around developing a Diverse Learning Exchange. [Click here to see more information about this committee's work.](#)
- After eight long years of putting her work before her schooling, Lisa Hood successfully defended her dissertation on December 5th. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Lisa Hood at lhood@ilstu.edu.
- Illinois State University will be closed for the holidays from December 23rd through January 1st. CSEP staff will be back in the office on January 2nd. In the meantime, we wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season!



Early Childhood Education

- **i3 Grant Tests Potential, Reach of One of the Country's Oldest PreK-3rd Programs:** Guest blogger Paul Nyhan explores how this i3 grant through the University of Minnesota, but of which the Center for the Study of Education Policy is a partner, is seeking to expand Chicago's Child-Parent Centers to schools throughout the Midwest. [Read more here.](#)
- **P-3 work in the States:** ECS conducted a scan of enacted policies from the 2013 legislative sessions to capture the ongoing work that lawmakers across the country are engaging in to strengthen their P-3 systems. The diversity of policies seems to

demonstrate state policymakers are increasingly recognizing that the developmental supports a child receives in the earliest years provide lifelong payouts for both child and community. This report provides summaries of 38 bills from 25 states that illustrate the breadth and depth of P-3 policies enacted in 2013 legislative sessions. [See the scan here.](#)

- **Early Education in Latino Community:** At 39 percent of the child population in Chicago under age 5, Latino children are a rapidly growing part of the community, not only in Chicago, but statewide. Experts say while those children present social, emotional, and linguistic strengths, they fall behind other students when starting school. But, a focus on early education can give those young learners a boost before preschool. Learn more about this [here](#).
- **Primeros Pasos – Strengthening Programs that Support Illinois Infants and Toddlers:** This report presents a Latino perspective on early care and education. The importance of this perspective rests on two realities: the high representation of Latinos among Illinois’ youngest learners, and the body of scientific research supporting the importance of the first three years of life and the foundation for cognitive and social emotional development [Read more here.](#)
- **Promoting High-Quality Early Learning and Development Programs in Illinois:** [ExceleRate](#) Illinois is the new Quality Rating and Improvement System that provides standards, guidelines, resources, and supports to help licensed child care centers, licensed child care homes, Preschool for All programs, and Head Start programs attain better quality outcomes for young children and their families. The Illinois Early Learning (IEL) Project Web site has many resources that can be used for professional development as programs engage in continuing education activities. The IEL Resource Lists provides a variety of evidence-based early care and education information to support programs as they engage in meeting the ExceleRate Illinois system standards. [You can access the IEL resource list here.](#)
- **Best Practices Highlighted in Early Childhood Videos:** First 5 and the Teaching Channel have teamed up to film six diverse preschools across San Francisco using a grant from the Evelyn & Walter Hass, Jr. Foundation. To watch these programs click the following links: [Developing Literacy Skills through Storytelling](#); [Frontloading for English language learners](#); [Developing Language through Thematic Learning](#); [Science & Math: Reasoning about Garden Observation](#); [Social-Emotional Literacy: Building Emotional Literacy and Identifying Feelings.](#)

K-12 Schools



- **New York School Uses “Kind” Video to Combat Bullying:** A video created by the social studies department at North Park Junior High School in Lockport, N.Y., recently went viral with a message against bullying. Set to Miranda Lambert’s song “All Kinds of Kind,” the video features students and teachers holding up signs about themselves. The video is part of a project of 750 photos posted in school hallways showing different kinds of community members. [See the video here.](#)
- **Bull’s-eye: Nolanville Students Take Aim at Archery:** Some educators at a Texas elementary school are using archery lessons to teach third-through fifth-graders about math concepts such as area and perimeter. One hundred students showed up for the first archery club meeting. “It definitely helps in school because it uses the math part of the brain,” fifth-grader Amy Miseli said. [Read more here.](#)

- **How One English Teacher Uses Twitter to Connect:** “There are three features of Twitter that can help teachers connect with fellow educators and share ideas for the classroom”, language arts teacher Ariel Sacks writes in his blog post. She suggests doing hashtag searches, including on #engchat for English teachers, to find out about topics relevant to language arts, such as a conversation she hosted on teaching whole novels. [Read more here.](#)
- **The National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders:** Early identification of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and individualized interventions and supports are central to positive outcomes for children with ASD as they grow and develop. The Center has developed an online learning module on the Early Identification of ASD. The goal of the module is to help increase early identification of ASD because the earlier children are identified, the earlier they can receive the necessary services and supports. The module provides information on the early characteristics of ASD, screening and assessment practices, and national resources and initiatives committed to early identification of ASD. [To view the module visit here.](#)



Teacher and Leadership Effectiveness

- **Campaign Seeks to Recruit Top Students to Become Teachers:** The Department of Education, in partnership with the Advertising Council, Microsoft, State Farm Insurance, Teach for America, the nation’s two largest teachers’ unions and several other educational groups is unveiling a [public service campaign](#) aimed at recruiting a new generation of classroom educators. [See the campaign here.](#)
- **Make Room for the Principal Supervisors:** “Instructional superintendents are the most important link between district leadership and our schools,” says Denver Public Schools Superintendent Tom Boasberg in *Make Room for the Principal Supervisors*. This story describes how Denver bucked a national trend by reducing the number of principals each of its principal supervisors manages, allowing them to provide more ongoing, one-on-one support. [Read the publication here.](#)
- **Teacher Licensing – Performance Based Test for Teachers Roll Out:** As the test, known as [edTPA](#) kicks into gear in 2013-14 after two years of pilot testing, thousands more teacher-candidates will be expected to demonstrate specific competencies to receive a teaching certificate. New York and Washington plan to introduce it into licensing by the spring. By 2015-16 seven states will make it part of teacher certification or use it to review their preparation programs. [Read more here.](#)
- **NYCLA Awarded \$3 Million in Funds by U.S. DOE:** As part of their i3initiative, the USDOE will award over \$135 million to expand practices designed to improve student achievement. As a recipient, NYCLA will launch our Targeted Intensive School Support Program designed to sustain the turnaround of low performing schools by training and supporting administrative teams.
- **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Drives Innovation with Principal Preparation Partners:** Several years ago, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in North Carolina determined that having high-quality leadership needed to be a core component of the district’s improvement strategy. Recognized nationally for its leadership pipeline work, CMS is a bright example of how a district can proactively partner with higher education to make sure school leadership preparation programs are actually producing effective leaders. [You can read more about Charlotte-Mecklenburg’s leadership work here.](#)
- **12 NCLB-Waiver States Want Extra Year for Full-Teacher Evaluation Rollout:** A dozen states have applied for extra NCLB flexibility from the Education Department to

give them another year of wiggle room as they roll out new teacher-evaluation systems. And 15 states have asked federal officials for a special waiver so they can give fewer tests to students. States including Maryland, Kentucky, and North Carolina want to delay tying teacher evaluations to personnel decisions. [Read the article from Education Week here.](#)

- **New Jersey Website to Assist Teachers, Parents:** New Jersey recently launched a website that will allow teachers to search for, download, and contribute to a massive inventory of lesson plans, assessment items, homework assignments, and other educational resources. Videos, classroom activities, slideshows, curriculum guides, quizzes, and tests are included. Parents can access the same resources to help their children at home, but they will not be able to upload or rate materials. The new website is aligned to Common Core and New Jersey's Core Curriculum Content Standards and also includes science and social studies. [Click here to see more.](#)



Common Core Standards

- **Higher-Order Thinking Rules Under Common Core:** Common Core academic standards force teachers to work on critical thinking over memorization. Today's students are being asked to think more critically. Curricula aligned with the Common Core State Standards has brought major changes to classrooms including a shift from memorization to focus on critical and higher-order thinking. The 5th grade students in Amy Lawson's Delaware classroom were asked to write an email from the perspective of a character in Judy Blume's "The Pain and the Great One." Teacher Amy Lawson encouraged students to explore their differences of opinion and use evidence in the book to support their arguments. "It's hard but you can handle this," Amy Lawson (5th grade teacher) tells her students. [Read more here.](#)



Integrated Systems

- **The Growing Convergence of Community Schools and Expanded Learning Opportunities:** The Coalition for Community School's new report, *The Growing Convergence of Community Schools and Expanded Learning Opportunities*, captures the scope and nature of expanded learning opportunities in community school partnerships. The report includes a new ELO typology and state-of-the-art ELO practices that community schools are implementing. [Download the report and access other ELO resources here.](#)
- **ECS State Policy Database 2013 State Policies/Activities:** This database is made possible by your state's fiscal support of the Education Commission of the States (ECS). Most entries are legislative, although rules/regulations and executive orders that make substantive changes are included. To view the documents click on the blue triangle next to the topic of interest. To view all, press the button located at the top labeled "Expand All." [Click here to access the site.](#)



Higher Education

- **Considering Teaching:** Anticipating a teacher shortage, especially of teachers of color, male teachers, science and math, this Statistics in Brief compared four groups of bachelor's degree recipients from 2007-08 and found that the representation of males and Black and Hispanic graduates was higher among those who considered teaching but didn't teach prior to graduation. The highest proportion of STEM majors did not consider teaching. College graduates who taught before or after graduation earned higher annual income in 2009 and reported higher job satisfaction than those who considered or who prepared for teaching but didn't teach. [Read the article from Inside Higher Education here.](#)
- **Initiative Aims to Boost U.S. College Graduation Ranks:** Twenty communities have been chosen as the first partners in a national initiative aimed at raising the ranks of college graduates. Lumina Foundation announced as much as \$200,000 to the recipients over three years, along with technical and planning help, and input from a network of "thought leader." The private foundation's overall goal is to raise the percentage of Americans with college degrees from 38% to 60% by 2015. [Read more here](#)
- **College and Career Readiness (CCR) Survey:** This eighth annual 50-state report describes progress and the lack thereof in advancing state policies that will equip high school graduates with the knowledge and skills to succeed in college, career, and citizenship. While all states now have readiness standards, fewer than half require classes that teach those standards. No state has all four CCR prerequisites. An appendix allows state-by-state comparisons. [Read more here.](#)
- **U.S. Seeks Experiments on New Models of Higher Ed:** The Obama administration is moving ahead with plans to waive certain federal student aid rules for a limited number of colleges that want to experiment with competency-based education and other innovative forms of higher education. The Education Department gave three examples of the types of innovations it may approve: competency-based education, dual enrollment, and prior learning assessment. (Inside Higher Ed) [Read more here.](#)



Events and Opportunities

- **The Principal's Institute: January 13-14, 2014 – Atlanta, Georgia.** The Principal's Institute is designed to help principals, principals-in-training and leadership teams from the middle grades and high school address their schools' specific needs and provide practical answers to the challenges they face on a daily basis. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)
- **[IllinoisParents.org:](#)** The Illinois Parents Web site highlights educational resources, local programs, organizations, and events that provide parenting information and services for Illinois families. Service organizations and library can be searched by county. The IEL staff are available to answer your questions about service organizations and other resources for parents through email or via their toll-free number: 877-275-3227
- **Youth Career Connect Program: An opportunity to Redefine High School Experience and Increase College and Career Readiness** – This webinar will provide guidance on how to

approach effective secondary school reform within the context of the U.S. Department of Labor's new \$100 million youth Career Connect grant competition. For more information on the webinar [click here](#).