

Listserv Email: April 25th, 2013

Illinois Specific

- The 2012 report of the Illinois P-20 Council was just released (see attached). The report as well as appendix is available online through the P-20 site at:
<http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/P20/Pages/Reports.aspx>

- From *The State Journal-Register* comes an article, [Jim Edgar: Funding Education Must Be A Top Priority](#). This article discusses how in the face of Illinois' financial issues, we must still invest in education, no matter what. To read more about this, [click here](#).

Early Childhood

- A recent article from *The Pottstown Mercury* entitled, [Filmmaker wants to document Pottstown's pioneering early ed efforts](#), discusses the early education program called PEAK, a program discussed in a [recent LINC report](#) from *The Center for the Study of Education Policy*. The article talks about a Virginia filmmaker who has made a short film about the PEAK program and now wants to make a full-length documentary. To read more, [click here](#).
- An article from *Education Week* entitled, [Birth to Five Policy Alliance Changes Name to Reflect Expanded Focus](#), highlights The Birth to Five Policy Alliance and their name change to the Alliance for Early Success. This new name will also bring with it a new focus for the organization, expanding their efforts to help children from birth to age 8. To read more, [click here](#).
- A resource that may be of interest from [Search Institute](#), provides information regarding developmental assets (from birth to age 18) including what they are, the background on them, and why they are important. The site also provides a great deal of information on overall child development. To read more, [click here](#).
- The **Harvard Family Research Project** put out a resource on [Family Engagement](#) that provides information on effective ways to encourage and support family involvement and child development. To read more about this and access the resources, [click here](#).
- A policy report from ACT Research and Policy entitled, [College and Career Readiness: The Importance of Early Learning](#), discusses college- and career-readiness among high school and post-high school students and the related research on learning gaps in early childhood among those from disadvantaged backgrounds. The report emphasizes the importance of early learning to later achievement in life. To read more about this research, [click here](#).

K-12 Schools

- A *Child Trends Research Brief* entitled, [What Works for Mentoring Programs: Lessons from Experimental Evaluations of Programs and Interventions](#), focuses on 19 mentoring programs and an experimental evaluation done that looks at measures including mental health, social-emotional health, education, self-sufficiency, substance

abuse, relationships, reproductive health, and behavior problems. To read more of this brief, [click here](#).

- Another Research Brief was recently released by *Active Living Research* entitled, [Do Short Physical Activity Breaks in Classrooms Work?](#) This brief concludes research done on activity break programs, and some breaks that tie physical activity with classroom learning. To learn more about this and read the brief, [click here](#).
- A resource that may be of interest comes from *American Institutes for Research* entitled, [Supporting English Language Learners: A Pocket Guide for State and District Leaders](#). This pocket guide focuses on the goal of college- and career-ready achievements for all students, including English Language Learners. To read more, [click here](#).
- The **Community Schools Initiative** has made news throughout the U.S., first of which occurred in New Mexico. [New Mexico's Governor signed a community schools measure into law](#) recently, which supports community schools throughout New Mexico and allows schools districts to apply for additional grant funding to implement the Community Schools model. To read more about this, [click here](#). In **Connecticut**, legislation was recently introduced that allowed qualifying districts to choose two elementary schools and one high school and restructuring them as Community Schools with the assistance of state funding. To read more about this, [click here](#).

Common Core

- General Resources:
 - [Click here](#) to view a video that discusses what Chicago Public School high school students are saying about the Common Core and what they need to be successful after high school.
 - Another video, one from the *Council of the Great City Schools*, discusses the Common Core State Standards and how they will help students achieve more after high school. To watch the video, [click here](#).
 - The following is a resource from the Common Core Illinois website. These are a collection of letters to Illinois parents about the Common Core State Standards and why they are so important. These letters can be printed and used for communication with families and communities. To access this resource, [click here](#).
- Math:
 - Another resource from the Council of the Great City Schools are the [Parent Roadmaps to the Common Core Standards- Mathematics](#). These roadmaps are grade-specific that give parents what they need to understand what their children will be learning and how to support that. [Click here](#) to read more about this.
 - A video that may be of interest, [The Importance of Mathematical Practices](#) from The Hunt Institute focuses on the standards for mathematics and "habits of mind of the mathematically proficient student." [Click here](#) to access the video.

- Science:
 - Another resource is the [Next Generation Science Standards](#). [Click here](#) to learn more about this website and how Illinois was a part of it's development. The website offers information on why we need science standards, what these standards are, implementation, and more.
- An article from *Education Week* entitled, [PARCC Releases Draft Policy on ELL Accommodations](#), discusses PARCC (The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) and the assessments they are designing to align to the Common Core State Standards. To read the article and the recommendations PARCC released, [click here](#).

Teacher and Leadership Effectiveness

- An article from *Education Week* entitled, [Teach for America Looks to Grow Rural School Leaders](#), highlights the new initiative from Teach for America that is helping teachers transition into roles as principals in rural areas. To read more about this initiative, [click here](#).
- The following paper, [Leap Year: Assessing and Supporting Effective First-Year Teachers](#), from TNTP discusses the Assessment of Classroom Effectiveness (ACE) and its use of classroom observations, student surveys, student achievement and principal ratings to track the progress of first-year teachers. To read more, [click here](#).

Higher Education

- From the ECS Research Studies Database comes an article entitled, [The Impact of Dual Enrollment on College Degree Attainment: Do Low-SES Students Benefit?](#) This article looks at dual enrollment in high school and the impact it has in a student's attainment of a college degree. To read the article, [click here](#).
- Another article from the ECS Research Studies Database entitled, [The Impact of GEAR UP on College Readiness for Students in Low Income Schools](#), discusses the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP). This program aims to increase college readiness among low-income students, the article evaluates the impact this program has had on college readiness. To read more, [click here](#).
- The *Brookings Institution* recently released a report entitled, [Common Sense: Using Common Finals to Measure Postsecondary Student Learning](#). This report discusses a set of common final exams that were implemented at Glendale Community College in California and how the data from these exams can be used to measure how much students learn in different sections of one course, as well as how it differs across instructors. To read more, [click here](#).
- An article from *The Washington Post* entitled, [ACT Survey Finds Gap on College Readiness](#), focuses on the survey results from the ACT assessment organization and the issue of college readiness. To read the article, [click here](#).

- An article from *Inside Higher Ed* entitled, '[More Than a Major,](#)' discusses what business executives care about when it comes to hiring new employees, shedding some light on career- and college-readiness. To read the article and report, [click here](#).

Upcoming Webinars & Events

- An upcoming event that may be of interest is a speaker series, [Education in America](#), that features Dr. Jerry Weast. Dr. Weast is the former superintendent of Montgomery County Schools in Maryland. This event will take place on **May 30th, 2013 at 7:00pm at Rosalind Franklin University in Chicago**. For more information, [click here](#).
- Another conference that may be of interest from **The New Teacher Collaborative Conference** entitled, [Y2: Moving Beyond Survival](#) will take place in **Champaign, IL on June 25th and 26th**. This conference is offered to teachers of all grade levels and content areas that are completing their first year of teaching in Illinois. To learn more about this conference, [click here](#).
- A [Dual Credit Symposia](#) will be hosted by the *Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP)*. This symposia will be offered in three sessions: **April 24th at Hyatt Regency in Chicago, May 6th at Lewis and Clark College in Godfrey, and on May 7th at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield**. This symposia will provide a basic overview of Dual Credit, the ICCB Administrative Rules, and the Dual Credit Quality Act. To read more about this symposia and register, [click here](#).
- The [2013 Annual Leadership Forum](#) hosted by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) will take place at the Renaissance Concourse Atlanta Airport Hotel on May 9th and 10th, 2013. This forum will focus on the progress and challenges associated with putting effective leaders in schools and working towards eventual improvement in student achievement. To read more and register for the forum, [click here](#).
- An upcoming event that may be of interest is the [3rd Annual STEAM Student Conference: Innovation](#). The conference will take place on **May 11th, 2013 from 9:00am to 3:00pm at the Alumni Hall at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago**. The conference is free and available to middle and high school students that focuses on **Science, Technology, Engineering, Architecture and Mathematics (STEAM)** skills. To learn more about this conference, [click here](#).

Grants

- A grant opportunity from the [Voice Not Violence Initiative from the African American Legacy \(AAL\)](#) will award annual grants up to \$40,000 that are renewable for up to three years. This grant will be giving priority to organizations that serve youth between the ages of 10 and 14 that work towards developing programs for youth in their communities. To learn more about this grant, [click here](#).
- The [Spencer Foundation](#) is accepting proposals for research that will examine K-8 classroom instruction. The grants range from \$50,000 to \$300,000. The grant deadline is **June 11th, 2013**. To read more about this grant opportunity, [click here](#).

- The **RGK Foundation** is accepting grant proposals to nonprofit organizations in the areas of education, community, and health and medicine. The deadline is rolling, to learn more about it, [click here](#).