

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013**

Here are some resources that may be of interest.

### **Illinois News**

- A report from the *University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research* was recently released, [Turning Around Low-Performing Schools in Chicago](#). This report focuses on student outcomes, as well as the demographic changes in students and teachers. To read the report, [click here](#).
- The following are dates for upcoming webinars on the new [Illinois 5Essentials Survey](#). These webinars will offer a comprehensive, detailed description of survey administration process. The webinars will take place on February 21st at 1:00 pm, February 26th at 10:00 am, March 6th at 1:00 pm, and March 14th at 1:00 pm. To register for these webinars and learn more about them, [click here](#).
- [Illinois Pathways](#) recently put out the completed reports in the efforts towards implementing the Illinois Shared Learning Environment (ISLE). To access these resources and learn more, [click here](#).

### **PreK-3 Resources**

- An article from *The Washington Post* titled, [Obama Proposal Reflects Shift in Views on Early Childhood Education](#). This article discusses President Obama's call for universal preschool and the national shift in how our country thinks about early childhood education. To read this article, [click here](#).
- The following report, [Build: Strong Foundations for Our Youngest Children](#), provides readers with a framework aimed at clarifying the ideas, approaches, and language surrounding evaluating systems as well as facilitating reflections about past evaluations. To read the report, [click here](#).
- From *The Colorado Trust* is an Issue Brief titled, [Early Childhood Systems Building From A Community Perspective](#). This brief discusses how to build an early childhood system in the context of a community setting, aligning community resources and programs and connecting families and children to those resources. To read this issue brief, [click here](#).
- The following resource from ASCD is titled, [The Whole Child Initiative](#). This resource aims to provide resources and language for talking with principals and superintendents regarding the transition to implementing a sustainable and collaborative system aimed at educating the whole child. To learn more about this initiative, [click here](#).
  - [The Whole Child](#) is a resource focused on the research, practice, local needs assessments, and collaboration aimed at the education of the whole child. This website includes topics and resources focused on early childhood education. To read more, [click here](#).
  - The ASCD will be hosting a [Whole Child Virtual Conference: Moving From Implementation to Sustainability to Culture](#). This conference will take place from

May 3rd-11th. It is a free online event that looks at the continuum of the whole child approach and the schools, communities, and individuals who have been a part of it. To learn more about the conference, [click here](#).

- A Professor Emerita of Psychology at Metropolitan State College of Denver, *Deborah Leong, PhD* developed the [Tools of the Mind](#) program with *Dr. Elena Bodrova*. This program is a "systemic intervention" that focuses on the multiple aspects of self-regulation throughout the day and in varying environments often found in preschool and kindergarten programs. To learn more about this program, [click here](#).
- [TKCalifornia: A Project of Preschool California](#), is an online resource for teachers and administrators seeking information and tools for transitional kindergarten classrooms. This website aims to support educators who are helping children get a better start in school. To learn more about this resource, [click here](#).
- The *Education Commission of the States (ECS)* recently launched a new [Kindergarten Online Database](#) that provides early learning state policy information. To access the database and read more, [click here](#).
- A new website that may be of interest focuses on financial management in nonprofit organizations. The Wallace Foundation put out a new website, [StrongNonprofits.org](#), to provide users with the tools and resources to develop financial management in their nonprofit organizations. To access and learn more about the site, [click here](#).
- The *University of Chicago Early Childhood Alternative Certification Program* will be offering a new cohort starting in May 2013 and ending in August 2014. The certification program is four semesters and 28 credit hours. It is aimed at students interested in earning an Illinois Alternative Early Childhood Teaching certificate (Type 44). To learn more and apply, [click here](#).
- Past Webinar: The PreK-3rd Grade National Work Group hosted a free eight-part webinar series titled, [Reducing the Achievement Gap by 4th Grade: The PreK-3rd Approach in Action](#). This webinar series is complete but to see archived materials, [click here](#).
- An upcoming conference that may be of interest to you is being hosted by the *McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership*. The [Leadership Connections National Conference](#) will take place on **May 16-18, 2013** at the **Westin Hotel in Wheeling, Illinois**. To register and learn more about it, [click here](#).

## Early Math Resources

The McCormick Foundation is funding the Illinois Network of Childcare Resource and Referral Agencies to convene an Illinois Early Math Advisory Committee that develop recommendations for the creation of math trainings that target early education teachers outside of Chicago. The group had its first meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup> and will meet until June 2013. We will provide updates on the work of this committee on the list serv. In the meantime, below are some early math research and resources in which you might be interested:

- Fostering Fluency with Basic Addition and Subtraction:  
<http://www.ies.ed.gov/funding/grantsearch/details.asp?ID=636>

- Research Behind Every Day Mathematics: <http://everydaymath.uchicago.edu/about/em-history/curriculum-research/>
- Center for Elementary Mathematics and Science Education: <http://cemse.uchicago.edu/>
- Math at Home: <http://mathathome.org/index.php>
- Check out the blog at: <http://mathathome.org/MathBlog.php>

### Teacher and Leader Effectiveness

- From *Education Week* is an article titled, [Overhaul of Teacher-Prep Standards Targets Recruitment, Performance](#). This article discusses the new proposed accreditation standards for teacher preparation programs by the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation. To read the article, [click here](#).
- Past webinar: A webinar that took place on February 13th, 2013 is now available for download- both the recording of the event and the related materials. The webinar entitled, [Building a Profession: Helping Principals Become the Lever of Change](#), featured Von Sheppard, the assistant superintendent for elementary schools in Boulder, Colorado. To access the archived materials for this webinar, [click here](#).

### Common Core

- An article on Education Week titled, [Five Essential Schoolwide Conditions for Common-Core Achievement](#), discusses the necessary conditions for schools to have in order to make the successful transition to the Common Core standards. To read this article, [click here](#).
- The following are several resources from the [Common Core Works website](#). This website contains a great deal of information and resources related to the Common Core Standards. Here are a few of the many that may be of interest:
  - [Two 30-second Public Service Announcements](#) (one in Spanish and one in English) explaining what the Common Core Standards are.
  - [Two three minute videos](#) (one in English and one in Spanish) that provides a more detailed explanation of the Common Core Standards.
  - 45-minute [professional development video](#) designed for central office and school-based staff and teachers with the transition in the Common Core Core standards in English language arts and literacy.
  - 45-minute [professional development video](#) designed for central office and school-based staff and teachers and helping with the transition in the Common Core standards in mathematics.
  - Classroom tools for implementing the [Basal Alignment Project](#), specifically in Reading/English Language Arts.
  - Classroom tools and videos for [teaching math progressions](#) across the grade levels.

### K-12 Education

- The following is a report titled, [Raising the Stakes: Investing in a Community School Model to Life Student Achievement in Community School District 16](#), that proposes a

partnership between and among Brooklyn's Community School District 16 (CSD16) school leadership, community stakeholders, and philanthropic partners that can provide other districts in the country with a community school model. This report focuses on the community school approach and the benefits of investing in such an approach. To read the report, [click here](#).

- A recent video from PBS Newshour titled, [Teachers Embrace 'Deep Learning.' Translating Lessons Into Practical Skills](#), looks at how some schools are implementing real world applications into their lesson plans, focusing on the importance of "improvement over intelligence". To watch the video, [click here](#).
- The following brief from the NCSL titled, [A Legislative Look at Expanded Learning Opportunities: How State Policies Support Learning Outside the Traditional School Day](#), discusses the topic of Structured Learning Environments and how state policy can effectively support and advance them. To read the brief, [click here](#).
- Another brief that may be of interest titled, [Rethinking "Seat Time:" State Approaches to Earning Credit in Out-of-School Time](#), discusses how many states are considering the use of competency-based systems, examining examples of competency-based credit policies in different states. To read the brief, [click here](#).
- An article from *Education Week* titled, [Milwaukee Public Schools Outperform Voucher Schools in Program](#), Report Says, discusses the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, a program that enrolls approximately 25,000 students in private schools through voucher programs. The report stated that this program has similar demographics and poverty levels as Milwaukee Public Schools. To read more of this report, [click here](#).
- Another resource that may be of interest is a new website, [GetEdFunding.com](#). This website provides educators and institutions the resources necessary to find funding through grants and other opportunities, including federal, state, regional, and community sources. To learn more about this resource, [click here](#).
- Upcoming Webinar: A webinar that may be of interest, *Broadening Parental Engagement: Valuing, Strengthening and Empowering Communities of Color*, took place on Tuesday, February 19th from 3:30pm to 4:30pm (central time). This webinar discussed the traditional view of parental engagement and involvement, suggesting a new way of looking at it. The Justice for Education Network features the approach utilized in the Telpochcalli Community School in Chicago, Illinois and their parental engagement strategies. To access the archived materials of this webinar, [click here](#).

## Higher Education Resources

- The following is a report from the Illinois Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon titled, [Game Changers](#). This report discusses the issue of affordability and how it impacts college completion, as well as a variety of effective campus-based projects, programs, and practices aimed to help alleviate the cost of college for students. To read the report, [click here](#).
- The U.S. Department of Education released an interactive [College Scorecard](#) after the State of the Union address, focusing efforts on holding colleges accountable for cost, value, and quality of higher education. The College Scorecard is part of the U.S. Department of Education's College Affordability and Transparency Center. To read more about it [click here](#).

- A report recently released by The Educational Policy Institute titled, [The Cost of College Attrition at Four-Year Colleges and Universities](#), discusses a study that was done concerning the relationship between attrition and revenues lost in four-year public, private, and for-profit colleges and universities. To read more about this study and its findings, [click here](#).
- A report from the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education titled, [Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates](#), indicated that by the 2019-2020 school year, 45 percent of public high school graduates in the U.S. will be nonwhite. The report states that graduating classes are becoming more diverse every year. To read the report and see the data, [click here](#).

Have a great weekend and stay warm!