

Listserv Email: March 21, 2012

- **Information on Statewide Teacher and Principal Performance Evaluation Training:** ISBE has released a press release regarding the statewide training for the new teacher and principal performance evaluation. To access the press release, go to: <http://www.isbe.net/PERA/pdf/pera-perf-eval-training-release-0312.pdf>
- **Upcoming webinar - Role of Leadership with Creating and Sustaining PreK-3rd Grade Continuum:**

As a collaborative effort of national organizations that focus on the full PreK-3rd grade continuum, The PreK-3rd Grade National Work Group is hosting a 7-part webinar series. The overarching theme for the webinar series is *Reducing Achievement Gaps by 4th Grade: The PreK-3rd Grade Approach in Action*. Each webinar will address a critical component of the PreK-3rd approach.

On Wednesday, April 11, 2012, from 3-4.30pm ET the second webinar in the series will address the crucial role of superintendents and elementary school principals in creating and sustaining meaningful alignment and high-quality learning opportunities across early childhood and the early grades. The focus will be on evidence-driven strategies and will highlight innovative practices at school, district, and state levels. **To register for the April 11 Webinar, please go to:** <https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/512410287>

Subsequent webinars will take a PreK-3rd grade perspective on family engagement, standards and curriculum, teacher effectiveness, child assessment, and state and district policy. A web site has been created to house information on the webinars: www.prek-3rdgradenationalworkgroup.org. **If you have questions, please contact:** prekto3rd@gmail.com

- **Survey on Common Core Standards** - The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), are working collaboratively on the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and the implications the Standards will have for students' readiness for college and careers. To better understand the landscape of knowledge about the Common Core and to determine the degree of alignment efforts between secondary and postsecondary partners, the agencies are asking that educators, including high school, college, and university teachers/faculty complete the brief survey. The survey is anonymous, and only aggregated information will be shared. No personal information is collected. Respondents can skip any questions they prefer not to answer. **Contact CCSSIL@ymail.com with any questions or to get on the statewide mailing list.**

Research on Leadership

- **Estimating the Effect of Leaders on Public Sector Productivity: The Case of School Principals** – This new [report](#) presents further evidence that principal quality—and principal turnover—matters for student performance.

- **First-Year Principals in Urban School Districts: How Actions and Working Conditions Relate to Outcomes** - This [report](#) examines the actions and perceived working conditions of first-year principals, relating information on those factors to subsequent school achievement and principal retention.
- **Successful Principals Speak Out** - This [brief](#) from Mass Insight Education's School Turnaround Group (STG) provides feedback from a network of leading principals on what they need from their school districts to successfully turnaround low-performing schools.

National and State Leadership News

- **Indiana to Revamp Its School Principal Certification Exam** – Like Illinois, Indiana is revamping its [principal certification exam](#).
- **Emanuel Announces Bonus Plan to Bring Top Principals to Chicago** - Chicago will search the country for 50 new school principals this year and hand each of them a \$25,000 bonus if they agree to come and take over a failing school, under a [plan](#) released by Mayor Rahm Emanuel. The privately funded plan is intended to build on the merit-pay system for principals implemented last year.