

Listserv Email: May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013

## Illinois Specific

- The [Illinois State Board of Education](#) recently posted the proposed changes to Illinois' Teacher Endorsement and Certifications. To read these rules and amendments, [click here](#). The public comment period will be open until June 3rd, to send in a public comment, [click here](#).
- **The U.S. Department of Education and the City Colleges of Chicago** will be providing **Financial Aid Train-the-Trainer sessions** as a part of the national initiative to increase awareness of financial aid. The sessions will take place on **May 20th-21st in Chicago**. These sessions are geared towards organizations that help students plan for college, including faith-based/community-based organizations, parent, advocacy, and government agencies. All events are free, but registration is required. To **RSVP** email [richard.blasen@ed.gov](mailto:richard.blasen@ed.gov) or **phone at 312-730-1547 by May 17th, 2013**. Attached to this email you will find a document giving the details of the three sessions.

## Early Childhood

- A report from *American's Promise Alliance, ReadyNation* entitled, [Championing Success: Business Organization for Early Childhood Investments](#), focuses on a study that surveyed four types of business organizations and found that the concerns of business organizations aligned closely with early childhood and the support of young children. To read this report, [click here](#).

## K-12 Education

- From *Education Week* comes an article entitled, [A Nation At Risk: Where Are We Now?](#) This article discusses the 30th anniversary of the release of the report, *A Nation at Risk*, from the National Commission on Excellence in Education. This article looks at a comparison of data in the U.S. over the decades since the report, to read more [click here](#).
- A study on the *ECS Research Studies Database* entitled, [When Educators are the Learners: Private Contracting by Public Schools](#), discusses the impact of social learning on a school and district administrator when contracting with a private vendor used in a similar school or district. To read the article, [click here](#).
- Recent legislation in [Utah, H.B. 393: Competency-Based Education Amendments](#), allows the state board to develop a course-level funding formula for the distribution of funding to districts and charter schools that establish a competency-based education approach. To read more about this recent development, click [here](#).

## Common Core

- An article from the *ECS Research Studies Database* entitled, [Upping the Ante of Text Complexity in the Common Core State Standards: Examining Its Potential Impact on Young Readers](#), discusses the possibility of unintended consequences of text complexity for students in the primary grades. To read this article, [click here](#).

- An article from *Education Week* entitled, [Teachers' Union President: Halt All High Stakes Linked to Common Core](#), discusses how teachers have not had enough time to understand the common core standards completely and modify their instructional techniques. To read the article, [click here](#).
- A report from the *National Center for Learning and Citizenship (NCLC) at ECS* entitled, [Linking Service-Learning and the Common Core State Standards: Alignment, Progress, and Obstacles](#), highlights case studies that explore schools with high-quality service-learning programs and the integration of service learning in the early stages of common core implementation will provide students with the skills needed for college and career readiness. To read the report, [click here](#).

## Educator Effectiveness

- **A shout out to SAMs!** From *Phi Delta Kappan* comes an article entitled, [Principals as Solo Performers](#). This article, written by the Editor of Phi Delta Kappan Joan Richardson, discusses ways in which the School Administration Manager (SAM) process has successfully changed the Linn-Mar Community School District in Iowa. To read more about this, [click here](#). For more information on the [National SAM Innovation Project](#) and related resources, [click here](#).
  - Another resource from the National SAM Innovation Project is a book by **Kim Marshall** entitled, [Rethinking Teacher Supervision and Evaluation](#). This book explains the SAM process and how it provides principals with more time to spend on instructional leadership work. To purchase this book, [click here](#).
  - Another book related to the SAM project entitled, [Professional Capital](#), by **Andrew Hargreaves and Michael Fullan**, discusses how the SAM process allows the principal to focus on the improvement of teaching practice and student learning. To purchase this book, [click here](#).
- From the **U.S. Department of Education** comes the President's plan to help educators entitled, [A Blueprint for RESPECT: Recognizing Educational Success, Professional Excellence, and Collaborative Teaching \(RESPECT\)](#). This document outlines the U.S. Department of Education's plan for helping educators make changes that allow for them to help children succeed. To read more, [click here](#).
- A report recently released by *The Aspen Institute* entitled, [Evaluating Evaluations: Using Teacher Surveys to Strengthen Implementation](#), discusses the way in which teacher surveys could improve the work on teacher evaluations by engaging teachers in the discussion. To read the report, [click here](#).
- From the *National Conference of State Legislatures* comes a guide entitled, [Getting to Excellence: A Legislator's Guide to Educator Effectiveness Policy](#). This publication is intended to help legislators through the process of considering policies that support educators and enhance the quality of teaching. To read more, [click here](#).
- From the State of Delaware website a news article was recently released entitled, [Strategic Data Project Previews Findings on Delaware Teaching Force](#), which discusses the two-year research efforts intended to inform state policy regarding educator

recruitment, placement, development, evaluation, and retention. To read more about this, [click here](#).

## Higher Education

- A report from *College Measures* entitled, [Higher Education Pays: The Initial Earnings of Graduates of Texas Public Colleges and Universities](#), discusses the research conducted that examined the first-year salaries of graduates of two- and four-year institutions who work in Texas. Among their findings: students with two-year technical degrees have first-year salaries of \$50,000-\$11,000 more than graduates of bachelor degree programs and \$30,000 more than students with two-year academic degrees causing the authors to conclude that meeting immediate workforce need, technical certificate holders' first-year earnings can exceed those who hold academic and technical associate's degrees. To read more about this research and the findings, [click here](#).

## Upcoming Events & Webinars

- An upcoming event that may be of interest is being held by **Autism Speaks**, Chicagoland Chapter. The event entitled, Supporting Learners with Autism (with expanded resources on bullying), will take place on **Saturday, May 11th from 9:00am - 11:30am or 1:00pm - 3:30pm. RSVP by May 1st by [clicking here](#).**
- The next **Early Learning Council webinar** will take place on **Wednesday, May 8th from 12:00pm - 1:00pm**. The webinar will be led by Rhonda Clark and Sarah McCusker (ISBE) and will provide an overview the Common Core. The webinar video link and conference call information will be sent out prior to May 8th. To see the webinar schedule, slides and recordings, [click here](#).
- On **Tuesday, May 14th at 2:00pm**, a webinar entitled, [Systemwide Early-Childhood System Building Webinar](#), will discuss the statewide system-building efforts and determining what is and is not working at the local level. To register for this webinar and read more, [click here](#).