



Center for the Study of Education Policy (CSEP)

- Our apologies with getting the newsletter out a week late, but we have been busy working on several exciting initiatives, including:
 - Hosting the first meeting of the IL-PART U.S. DOE School Leadership grant, which was held on Monday, November 11th (attached is the press release sent out this week about the grant)
 - Facilitating the November 13th Statewide Learning Network meeting for the Grow Your Own Teacher Initiative
 - Wrapping up the committee recommendations for the new Illinois Superintendent Preparation Programs, which will be introduced soon in rules
 - Wrapping up the committee recommendations for the new Illinois Early Childhood Endorsement Programs, which we are presenting around the state over the next few weeks with the Early Childhood Education Higher Education Regional Faculty Meetings

More information about these initiatives will be communicated in future list serv postings.



Early Childhood Education

- **Early Learning Council webinar “Supporting Latino Infants and Toddlers in Policy and Practice” on Tuesday, November 19th from 12:00-1:00pm.** The Latino Policy Forum will present the findings from a new report on Latino children and birth-to-three services entitled *Primeros Pasos: Strengthening Programs that Support Illinois Infants and Toddlers*. One out of every four children under age five in Illinois is Latino, and as Illinois seeks to expand the scope and quality of its early childhood systems, understanding the strengths and challenges of this population is critical. Three other local and national experts will also be responding to the report and offer additional context and insight into this important and emerging topic. To RSVP contact: amber.kirchhoff@illinois.gov
- **Many Young Children Lagging in Cognitive Skills at Age 8:** An analysis of 13,000 young children tracked from kindergarten through middle school found that only about one-third were on track with cognitive skills by 3rd grade, underlining the need for a comprehensive early-childhood education, particularly for low-income

- children, according to an Annie E. Casey Foundation report. The [report](#) offers several policy recommendations and includes state-by-state data on childhood well-being.
- **Investing in our Future: The Evidence Base on Preschool Education:** The Foundation for Child Development has published a research brief entitled "[Investing in Our Future: The Evidence Base on Preschool Education](#)," which reviews evidence on why early skills matter, which children benefit from preschool, the short and long-term effects of preschool programs on children's school readiness and life outcomes, the importance of program quality, and the costs versus benefits of preschool education.
 - **Birth to Eight Framework:** The **Alliance for Early Success** and **Child Trends** have partnered together to release "[The Research Base for a Birth through Age Eight State Policy Framework](#)," which provides supporting research for the 38 policy choices in the framework. The framework identifies health, family support, and learning as key policy areas; and standards, screening and assessment, and accountability as key policy foundations.
 - **Early Literacy:** The National Governors Association released a report entitled, "[A Governor's Guide to Early Literacy: Getting All Students Reading by Third Grade](#)." The report investigates increasing literacy among children.
 - **Five Numbers to Remember about Early Childhood Development:** The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University has created an online tool, entitled "[Five Numbers to Remember about Early Childhood Development](#)." The tool highlights five numbers that illustrate the importance of early childhood to learning, behavior, and health later in life.
 - **Licensing:** "[The Relationship of Licensing, Head Start, Pre-K, QRIS, Accreditation, and Professional Development and their Potential Impact on Child Outcomes](#)" provides some thoughts about the various public policy initiatives/systems to improve early care and education, such as licensing, Head Start, Pre-K, QRIS, accreditation, and professional development and their potential impact on child outcomes.

K-12 Schools



- **Keeping Pace with K-12 Online and Blended Learning:** The 10th edition of this [annual report](#) provides a snapshot of the K-12 online and blended learning landscape as of late 2013 aligned with a guide where readers can find more information about the topics in the report.
- **Who Has Access to Dual Credit in Illinois? Examining High School Characteristics and Dual Credit Participation Rates.** A new [study](#) by IERC examined the relationship between the proportion of high school students participating in dual credit and high school characteristics using data from the Illinois public high school class of 2003.

- **Why Do Teachers Quit?** - Richard Ingersoll taught high-school social studies and algebra in both public and private schools for nearly six years before leaving the profession and getting a Ph.D. in sociology. Now a professor in the University of Pennsylvania's education school, he's spent his career in higher education searching for answers to one of teachings most significant problems: teacher turnover. [Read more here.](#)
- **For Students of Color, the Risks of Exclusion are High:** While policymakers and educators fret about ongoing achievement gaps for students of color, school policies continue to make it harder for black, Hispanic, and American Indian students to stay in class in the first place. A new analysis of the most recent 2009-1- data from the U.S. Education Department's Office of Civil Rights finds minority students are disproportionately excluded through a wide array of disciplinary practices. [Read more here.](#)



Teacher and Leadership Effectiveness

- **The Fishman Prize for Superlative Classroom Practice:** The Fishman Prize for Superlative Classroom Practice is a \$25,000 prize awarded annually to public school teachers who demonstrate exceptionally effective teaching with students from high-poverty communities. Offered by TNTP, a nonprofit organization working to ensure that all students get excellent teachers, the prize is given to up to five teachers each year. In addition to receiving \$25,000, the winners engage in a six-week, one-of-a-kind summer residency during which they meet with education leaders nationwide and write and publish a collection of essays about their most essential teaching strategies. Finalists receive a \$1,000 award and national recognition. Applicants who submit by the early deadline of December 3, 2013 will learn whether they have been selected for the next round in advance of other applicants. **The final deadline is January 21, 2014.** To read the 2013 winners' paper and learn more about how to apply, or how to nominate your favorite teacher, please visit: www.tntp.org/fishmanprize.
- **Growing Leaders: Ground your Principals in Professional Development.** There is a growing list of demands placed on a school's top administrator. There is student achievement to track, loads of data to analyze, parents to appease, new technology to consider, crises to manage, and teachers to coach and evaluate. How can principals be CEO and make sure the buses run on time? They can delegate, but the buck stops with them. [Read more here.](#)
- **New Teachers More Educated, of High Caliber:** A new study found that during the 2007-08 school year, 26% of new teachers entered the classroom with a master's degree, compared to 17% two decades earlier. And for the first time, new teachers in 2008 had slightly higher average SAT scores than their peers entering other fields. Delaware has raised admission standards for the teacher-preparation programs and New Jersey is considering similar legislation. [Read the report here.](#)

- **Learning the Language:** In Broward County Florida, where state law requires all academic content teachers to have some training in the theories and practice of teaching second-language learners, the district's curriculum and instruction team has created an open-source trove of digital professional development resources around the common core, in addition to face-to-face training. The district has a series of webinars to address particular instructional shifts in the new standards. "All of our teachers, whether they are mainstream content teachers or ESL teachers, are getting this professional development and are doing it together," said Vicky B. Saldala, the director of the district's English-as-a-second-language department. [Visit the blog here.](#)
- **Districts Matter: Cultivating the Principals Urban Schools Need:** View the webinar from last week and take advantage of this critical content. This UCEA-Wallace Foundation webinar highlighted the important role that districts play in shaping the destinies of its principals. [See the video here.](#)
- **Managing the Teacher Workforce in Austere Times: The Determinants and Implications of Teacher Layoffs:** Over 2000 teachers in Washington State received reduction-in-force (RIF) notices in the past two years. Linking data on these RIF notices to a unique dataset of student, teacher, school, and district variables the authors determine factors that predict the likelihood of a teacher receiving a RIF notice. A teacher's seniority is the greatest predictor, but (all else equal) master's degree teachers and credentialed teachers in the "high-needs areas" of math, science, and special education were less likely to receive a RIF notice. For a subset of the teachers there is no observed relationship between effectiveness and the likelihood of receiving a RIF notice. Results suggest a different group of teachers would be targeted for layoffs under an effectiveness-based vs. seniority-driven layoff system. [Read the full paper here.](#)



Common Core Standards

- **Common Core Learning Standards: Thinking Beats Memorizing Any Day:** Debating how to bring Common Core learning guidelines alive in classrooms across America make sense. Debating whether to adopt these tougher standards which aim to teach kids from kindergarten to high school how to think, not to memorize - does not. The Common Core standards could transform instruction in America if they're implemented well. And while that's a big if, the far bigger risk is giving up on one of the most promising advances in American education in a generation. [Read more here.](#)
- **Common Core and Disadvantaged Students:** It's no secret that there has been plenty of heated debate about the Common Core State Standards, however, for all the talk about economic competitiveness, fidelity to federalism, and empowering

educators, there has been hardly any discussion of the importance of the standards to the least-served students in public education. [Read more here.](#)

- **Common Core and Curriculum Controversies:** Watch the Fordham LIVE event [here.](#)

- **Common Core in the Schools: A First Look at Reading Assignments.**

Researchers analyze what texts English teachers assign their students and the instructional techniques used in the classroom. This study is meant to serve as a "baseline" that shows what the very early stages of CCSS implementation look like.

The "baseline" study - with a follow-up slated for 2015 - shows what the very early stages of CCSS implementation look like. [Read more here.](#)



Higher Education

- **Public Hearing on College Ratings:** A federal college ratings system has the potential to curb access to higher education for disadvantaged minority and low-income students, several college leaders and student advocates told Education Department officials. The event kicked off a series of four [public forums](#) that the department is holding to solicit feedback on how to develop a federal college ratings system for colleges and universities that will by 2018 linked to student aid.
- **Time for a Rules Change:** A growing number of reform-minded lawmakers on Capitol Hill want to see more of online "innovations" like competency-based education. To help out, some are making noise about changing federal financial aid policy and the accreditation system. That was the message during a [hearing](#) on college student success and addressed the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.
- **U.S. Lags Other Countries in Quality of Teacher Education Programs:** The United States has some of the best university-based math teacher training programs in the world, but also has some of the worst -- and those poor performing programs produce 60% of teachers in schools with the highest percentage of low-income students, according to [new research](#). The United States was the only country in the study to have such a wide range of performance by math teachers in preparation programs.



Events and Opportunities

- **Youth Guidance's 21st Annual Parent Leadership Conference: Youth Guidance's Annual Parent Leadership Conference, *Parenting with a Purpose* will be December 6-7, 2013 in Oak Brook, Illinois.** This highly interactive conference is designed for parent leaders, teacher, paraprofessionals, principals, and

community leaders. For more information, download a conference [registration packet here](#). The registration deadline is November 22, 2013.