

**Center for the  
Study of Education Policy (CSEP)**



- **CSEP Awarded U.S. Department of Education grant:** CSEP was just awarded a \$4.6 million dollar five-year U.S. DOE School Leadership grant. The [grant](#) will be used to go deeper with Illinois' work with principal preparation by piloting and testing a 6-month full-time internship model with three university preparation programs and their PK-12 partner districts at Western Illinois University/partner-Quincy SD, North Central University/partner-East Aurora SD and Illinois State University/partner-Bloomington SD. The Center for Catholic School Effectiveness and Loyola University are also serving as a private school partner with this work.
- **Reminder: Statewide Meeting for Developing Guidelines for Evaluating the P-12 Principal Program Redesign** - On October 28, 2013 at the Parke Hotel in Bloomington, IL, CSEP will host a statewide meeting of principal preparation stakeholders (e.g., principal preparation program faculty; leadership professional organizations; early childhood, special education, ELL professional organizations). During this meeting, CSEP staff and preparation program faculty will facilitate focus groups to gather feedback on the evaluation focus and design that will be used to draft guidelines for the evaluation. Invitations to this meeting will be sent to stakeholders when meeting logistics are finalized. Attached is the registration form for this meeting as well as a synopsis for this work.



**Early Childhood Education**

- **The Changing Landscape of Early Childhood Education Leadership Development:** Growing expectations for Early Childhood Education have naturally led to looking at effective leadership in classrooms, programs and organizations that form the field's "infrastructure." The McCormick Center for Early Childhood Education Leadership did a [recent study](#) on the field addressing the need to focus attention on leadership development programs to meet the needs of the field.
- **Can Rating Pre-K Programs Predict Children's Learning?** A University of Virginia [study](#) examined teachers' emotional support in classrooms and how it related to preschool and kindergarten outcomes. Findings suggest that consistency in providing emotional support in early childhood classrooms is related to better academic and social outcomes for children.
- **The Importance of Consistent Pre-School Attendance:** "Children who are chronically absent in preschool are five times more likely to be chronically absent in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade", according to the University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School research. This study followed 25,000 three and four year olds served by CPS school based programs finding absenteeism is "rampant" among preschoolers. You can click [here](#) to access the findings of the study.
- **Early Childhood Return on Investment:** The organization Fight Crime: Invest in Kids recently released a report entitled [I'm the Guy You Pay Later](#), which states that

- the implementation of a proposed state-federal early childhood education partnership could reduce the number of people who are incarcerated nationwide by 200,000 every year and lead to \$75 billion in cost savings over 10 years.
- **Early Childhood Policy Tools:** The National Council of La Raza has created the [Latino Kids Data Explorer](#), a web-based tool that helps advocates, grant writers, researchers, and other community-based professionals easily download and creatively present up-to-date information on the status of Latino children in their state and nationally.
  - **Early Learning Literacy Initiatives:** The [Arlington County Public Library](#) system has launched a program entitled: [1,000 Books Before Kindergarten](#) which looks to encourage preschoolers to strengthen language skills and build their vocabularies.
  - **Early Learning and Music:** The 2013 issue of *Imagine*, an online early childhood music therapy magazine, has just been released. The issue contains 130 pages of ideas, inspirations, and evidenced-based approaches to supporting learning and development through music. More information can be found at: <http://www.imagine.musictherapy.biz/Imagine/home.html>
  - **Early Learning Publications:** *The Washington Post* recently compiled [a list of publications](#) that cover a host of early learning topics, such as kindergarten readiness and sensory learning for children.
  - **Using an Anti-Bias Lens to Examine Early Childhood Children’s Books:** On November 6, 2013 from 2:00-3:30 pm (eastern) a [webinar](#) offered by Early Childhood Investigations Literature will be available. Using literature as the vehicle for helping children understand their homes, communities and the world this webinar is free and open to anyone to participate in.



### K-12 Schools

- **U.S. Ed. Dept. Issues Guidelines on Double Testing Flexibility:** The U.S. Department of Education offered states the chance to suspend their current tests this spring, as long as they administer field tests being designed by the two common-assessment consortia in math and English/language arts. A department [letter](#) explained options for states as they transition their testing regimens to reflect the Common Core standards.
- **Closing the Gap for ELLs:** A [brief](#) from the Rennie Center for Education Research and Policy examines recent policy developments and discusses the implications for the growing populations of ELLs. Although some ELL students thrive academically, some of the students identified as “high needs” are not.
- **Competency Based Education Tools and Resources:** The Education Commission of the States has put together a *Competency-Based Education: Who’s Doing What* resource that includes a list of organizations, initiatives, publications, and web-based information on competency-based education. Follow the attached [link](#) for more information.



## Teacher and Leadership Effectiveness

- **Early Promising Results for Chicago’s New Teacher Evaluation System:** A report from the University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research found that “an overwhelming majority of teachers and principals in Chicago Public Schools believe the overhaul of the district’s teacher evaluation system has promoted teacher growth and instructional improvement.” There is still concerns about some of the “elements” of the evaluation but this study is encouraging. This [report](#) is the first in a series of reports about REACH.
- **Illinois New Teacher Induction Guide:** This [free resource](#) by the Illinois New Teacher Collaborative provides step by step advice on planning, designing, and implementing new induction and mentoring programs and provides the tools for evaluating and refining extant programs. A team of 25 experts collaboratively wrote and vetted the information in the induction guide.
- **Effective Classroom Interactions: Supporting Young Children’s Development:** The University of Virginia’s Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) and Curry School of Education will be offering a [FREE, 4-week, online course](#) to assist teachers in offering emotionally supportive classroom interactions.
- **Teaching the Whole Child:** The Center on Great Teachers & Leaders at American Institute for Research (AIR) has put out a [Research to Practice Brief](#) looking at "Instructional Practices That Support Social-Emotional Learning in Three Teacher Evaluation Frameworks."



## Common Core Standards

- **Should the Common Core Extend into Early Childhood:** In their current form the common core cover Math and ELA in K-12, a discussion on the [Ounce of Prevention Policy Conversations](#) asks, "What, if anything, can the early childhood education community learn from the Common Core?" To read more see the article [here](#).
- **K-12 and Higher Education Collaborating on Common Core:** A recent [survey](#) found that most states report that the K-12 and higher education sectors are working together to implement the Common Core standards. But of the 40 states that responded to survey, K-12 state education agency officials in 16 states reported facing more challenges and another 19 encountered minor challenges in collaborating with higher education.
- **Common Core Math Activities by Agriculture Education** – A list of Common Core Math Activities and resources are available on the [Illinois Agriculture Education web site](#). The lessons were written by high school math and agriculture teachers to specifically address the new Common Core Standards in Mathematics and activities

are designed to stand-alone by math or agriculture teachers, or used by agriculture teachers to complement their current curriculum.

- **Explaining the Common Core Standards to Families** – This [web site](#) hosts a series of videos that may be helpful to parents in better understanding the Common Core Standards.
- **National Catholic Education Association:** The National Catholic Education Association has issued a statement on the Common Core that can be found [here](#). This was followed up by a statement from the Superintendent of the Catholic Dioceses in Illinois. Read his position statement [here](#).



### Integrated Systems

- **Statewide Presentations on the New School Report Card** – Debra Strauss and Joyce Karen, co-chairs of Family, Youth, and Community Committee of the Illinois P-20 Council will be holding numerous presentations around the state sharing information on the new State Report Card. Some dates have been provided: September 24, Park Ridge-ED-RED (Education, Research Development); October 21, Palatine, Illinois PTA-Northwest Region; October 22, Peoria-Illinois Principals Association and November, 22 Triple I Conference. While more dates are being organized, check out the website of [the Illinois Report Card](#).



### Higher Education

- **Common Guidelines for Education Research and Development:** The IES and NSF have issued a [new report](#), Common Guidelines for Education Research and Development, with the hope of creating a more systematic development of knowledge through research by coordinating between the two funding offices.



### Events and Opportunities

- **Common Vision Common Goals: Preparing Schools, Colleges, and Universities for New Standards and Assessment** –On **Thursday, October 17, 2013** at the **Bone Student Center at Illinois State University**, the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and the Center for the Study of

Education Policy (CSEP) will be hosting a free, one-day conference on the Common Core Standards and Higher Education. More information on the event and registration can be found on the [Center's web site](#).

- **FREE Dinner Symposium:** On Thursday, October 24, 2013, the Illinois Science Teachers Association (ISTA) and the Chicago STEM Education Consortium (C-STEMEC) will host a free dinner symposium for school and district administrators, policy leaders, and education reformers on implementing the common core standards for math and science. Click [here](#) to see more information about the symposium, including registration information.
- **Midwest Community Schools Forum:** Registration is still open for the November 14-15 Community Schools Conference in Naperville, Illinois. Principals, school administrators, non-profit partners, afterschool program providers, school counselors, teachers, and funders are all encouraged to join. More information can be found here at the [Federation for Community Schools web site](#).
- **Leadership Greater Chicago (LGC) Unleashed Education:** The P-20 Council is co-sponsoring this 3 session event beginning on October 3, 2013 at the JP Morgan Chase Plaza Level Auditorium, 10 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois. The fee is \$20 for fellows, and \$25 for non-members. For more information on the events, including registration information, click [here](#).
- **7th Annual National SAM/Principal Conference:** The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual National SAM and Principal Conference will be held January 31-February 1, 2014 in San Diego. For more information on the conference, including how to register, click [here](#).

The Center for the Study of Education Policy (CSEP) brings the results of research into the everyday world of educators, governmental leaders, and policymakers. More information about CSEP can be found at: <http://education.illinoisstate.edu/csep/>