Illinois Specific

- An article from the *Bloomington Pantagraph* entitled, *Olympia Named Silver Medalist School; 6 Other Schools Recognized*, highlights the *U.S. News & World Report* on the Best High School rankings that were recently released. Olympia High School, among other central Illinois high schools were ranked high in Illinois and nationally. To read more about this, [click here](#).

- An upcoming conference that may be of interest entitled, *Forum for Excellence: Career & Technical Education Conference*, will be hosted by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) on September 26th-27th, 2013 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in East Peoria, Illinois. The topics for the forum include Accountability/Data, Collaboration and Partnerships, College and Career Readiness, Dual Credit, Nontraditional Initiatives, PTR: Continuous Improvement, Professional Development, Programs of Study: Development and Implementation, and Student Transition. The ICCB are asking for submissions of presentation requests now, the **deadline for submissions is May 15th, 2013**. To submit a presentation and learn more about the conference, [click here](#).

- Last week, Sandra Alberti presented in Illinois on *Preparing a New Generation: College and Career Readiness for All Students*. The PowerPoint presentation is attached to this email. Questions from the presentation that were not answered will be available by May 9th, as will a link to video from all of Sandra's Illinois presentations. Also- to see ISBE's Common Core resource page for educators, [click here](#). For the ISBE Common Core newsletter, *Capture the Core*, [click here](#).

- From *The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)* comes the *ISBE Model Common Core Math Curriculum: Grades 6-12 Webinar Video*. This resource aims at demonstrating successful student pathways to attaining the mathematics-standard by graduation. To read more about this, [click here](#).

PreK-3

- The following resource may be of interest: *The Framework for Planning, Implementing, and Evaluating PreK-3rd Grade Approaches* by Kristi Kauerz and Julia Coffman. This document offers direction on understanding comprehensive P-3 approaches; the use of the word "alignment" and what needs to be aligned; the kinds of behavior changes that need to occur in adults before we can see improvement in children's behavior; the responsibilities shared among 0-5 programs, grades, K-3 families, and communities; and finally, how to ensure evaluation is not an afterthought- how to incorporate it into the planning and design of P-3 approaches. To access this resource, [click here](#).

- An article that may be of interest from the *Education Commission of the States (ECS)* entitled, *State Pre-K Funding: 2012-13 School Year*, reviews policies among all 50 states and the 2012-13 expenditures on pre-k programs that serve 4-year-olds. The research examined state funding to pre-k programs during a "flat budget year". Findings indicate that while 26 states cut
K-12 funding in 2012-13, state funding for pre-K programs serving 4-year-olds increased by 3.6%. To read the results of this research, [click here](#).

- A policy report from *ACT Research and Policy* entitled, *College and Career Readiness: The Importance of Early Learning*, discussed the importance of a "rich curriculum" in early learning experiences and the various positive outcomes of having a strong early learning curriculum on later life experiences, specifically college and career readiness. To read the report, [click here](#).
- An article from *Education Week* entitled, *Local Business Say They're Working to Boost Early-Childhood Education*, discusses how half of the local chambers of commerce polled in the 49 state survey have taken steps toward expansion and improvement of early childhood education. To read more of this article, [click here](#).

**Educator Effectiveness**

- An article from the *Washington Post* entitled, *McDonnell to Create "Teacher Cabinet" to Advise on Va. School Policies*, discusses a recent announcement that the Governor of Virginia, Robert McDonnell plans to create a "Teacher Cabinet" of advisers to assist in "high-level" decisions that will impact public schools. To read the article, [click here](#).

**Online Courses/Teacher Preparation**

- An article from the *Los Angeles Times* entitled, *Online Provider Offers Courses in Education, Teacher Training*, discusses the online course provider, Coursera, and their recent announcement that they will be adding a "teacher professional development" category to their website for K-12 teachers and parents. This category will include content development, Common Core curriculum, and blended learning strategies. To read more, [click here](#).

**Common Core**

- An article from the *Washington Post* entitled, *Many Teachers Say They Need Training in Common Core Standards, Poll Says*, brings up a recent survey that indicates "most teachers" feel unprepared to teach the Common Core State Standards. To read more, [click here](#).
- The following video, *USA Education Standards*, is a three-minute video on the Common Core that explains the progression of the standards. To see the video, [click here](#).
- The following are Common Core resources for parents and community members:
  - Visit the *Common Core Illinois website* for a comprehensive resource including the Core Connection newsletter, [click here](#) to access the website.
  - [Click here](#) to access a document that reviews, "How Can You Help Your Child?" This document focuses on how to help your child with the implementation of the Common Core coming up, as well as questions to ask teachers and start conversations on what is going to be expected of children.
From the National PTA comes the Parents' Guide to Student Success. This document was created in the effort to help parent's with the implementation of the Common Core State Standards. To access this guide, click here.

From Education Week comes an article entitled, The 'Monster' at the End of the Common Core. This article discusses the "panic" among the educational community over the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and the fear of standardization and the end of creativity. To read more, click here.

The following are Common Core resources for Teachers, Administrators, and Educator Preparation Staff:

- Communications:
  - The Common Core Illinois website has materials that can be downloaded to aid in communication with families about the Common Core, including letters to parents in different languages, and tips for how to talk to parents about the Common Core. To access this, click here.
  - Educators and community members can sign up for the Core Connection newsletter by clicking here.

- For ELL students:
  - The following are resources for educators: Understanding Language from Stanford University. This resource helps educators better understand the important role plays in the Common Core Standards and also has a focus on ELLs. To access the website, click here. Also, the Twitter account is @ELLStanford
  - An English Language Development (ELD) Standards resource from World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment that provides educators with the WIDA 2012 Amplified English Language Development. To access this, click here.
  - From the CCSSO comes the English Language Proficiency Development Framework, a resource to help states in using the expectations of the Common Core State Standards as a tool for creating and evaluating the English Language Proficiency Standards. Click here to access the resource.

- Kindergarten:
  - The following document explains the alignment and the district purposes of the Common Core State Standards for kindergarten and the measurement instrument. To access this, click here.

- Professional Development Related to English Language Arts Standards
• Click here to access resources by the International Reading Association that helps support professional learning in the Common Core Standards. To access this, click here. Twitter: @IRAToday

  o Higher Education

• An article from Inside Higher Ed entitled, The Common Core on Campus, discusses how the knowledge of the Common Core is lacking across college and university campuses—specifically for faculty members and most top administrators. To read more about this, click here.

K-12 Education

• Another article from Education Week entitled, Absolutely Everything Researcher Know About Bullying, discusses a recently released analysis from the American Educational Research Association on the current status of bullying research in the U.S. To read the article and access the report, click here.

• From the Evansville Courier & Press comes an article entitled, Pence Set to Sign School Safety Bill; Officers to be More Than Protection, discusses Indiana's Governor, Mike Pence and the expectation that he will soon be signing into law S.B. 1. This legislation will make money available to schools so that they can hire resource officers that are specially trained for school safety, guidance counseling, and educating. To read more about this, click here.

• An article from KQED entitled, Report: Federal Rules Impede Competency-Based Learning, highlights a KnowledgeWorks report on competency-based systems and the role of federal policy in implementing competency-based learning models. To read more about this and access the report, click here.

• The Peoria Journal Star recently released an article entitled, Advisory Panel to Review Illinois School Funding, which discusses Senator Andy Manar's statement that there needs to be a change in how the state distributes education funding to school districts. To read the article, click here.

Higher Education

• An article from Inside Higher Ed entitled, Low Bar, High Failure, discusses the low bar being set by community colleges for students in their first year. The article discusses the National Center on Education and the Economy study: What Does It Really Mean to Be College and Work Ready? To read the article, click here.

• The U.S. Department of Education recently announced the plan to begin conversations with the higher education community to implement rules that would ensure colleges and universities are providing students with a high-quality education and preparation for the workforce. Among the possible topics are: Cash Management, State Authorization for Distance Education Programs, State Authorization for Foreign Locations of Domestic Institutions, Clock to Credit Hour Conversion, Gainful Employment, Campus Safety and Security Reporting, and Definition of "Adverse Credit" for the Direct PLUS Loan Program. To read more about this, click here.
Upcoming Events and Webinars

- An upcoming webinar that may be of interest is the fourth in the series, *Building a Profession: Helping Principals Become the Lever of Change*. This webinar will take place on **Wednesday, May 15th at 4:00 pm**. This webinar will focus on the Frankford Elementary School and how the principal, Sharon Brittingham led it to becoming one of the highest-performing schools in the state. Sharon Brittingham will be joining the webinar to discuss her work at Frankford Elementary School and how she has translated that experience to her work in Delaware. To learn more and register, [click here](#).