



EDUCATION FOR OUR FUTURE: SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ILLINOIS P–20 COUNCIL TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE JANUARY 2012 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the second annual report of the Illinois P–20 Council to the Governor and Legislature of Illinois following its second year of operation. This report details the progress the P–20 Council made during 2011 on reaching its primary goal: “to increase the proportion of Illinoisans with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60% by the year 2025.” The report is organized based upon the five critical education priorities which serve as a framework for the Council’s activities over the next several years:

- Transform the state Education Accountability System;
- Provide a clear pathway to careers;
- Develop and support effective teachers and leaders at all levels of the P–20 system;
- Engage families, youth, and communities throughout the state in increasing educational opportunities and maximizing educational attainment;
- Provide adequate, equitable, and sustainable funding and sound governance to promote high-quality, accessible educational opportunities throughout Illinois.

The Council’s five standing committees (Data, Assessment, and Accountability; Family, Youth, and Community Engagement; Finance and Governance; School, College, and Career Readiness; and Teacher and Leader Effectiveness) are aligned with the critical priorities and charged with working with broad stakeholder groups to gain input and developing recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on how to meet our primary goal. In 2011, two additional committees were added to enhance the effectiveness of the Council. The Coordinating Committee, with membership of all the committee co-chairs, promotes communication and collaboration across all P–20 committees. The Joint Education Leadership Committee (JELC), chaired by the Lt. Governor and with a membership of the heads of Illinois agencies and IMSA, IERC, and ELC, meets monthly to promote the implementation of the Council’s recommendations.

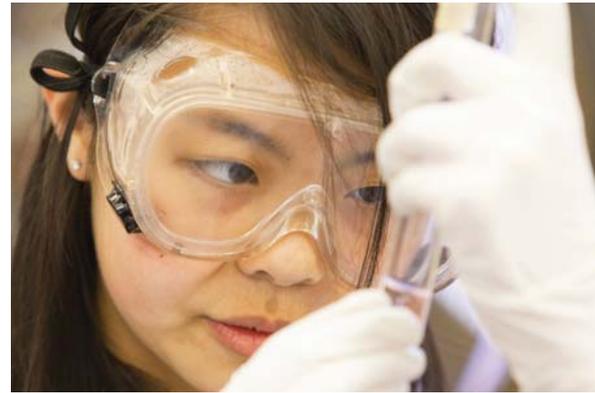
The critical priorities and associated recommendations contained in this report are largely consistent with those endorsed by the P–20 Council in its first annual report. While annual progress has been made in each area and will be reported here, the Council recognizes that lasting systemic change of the magnitude required to achieve our goal requires sustained attention and commitment over many years.



►► TRANSFORM THE STATE EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

► **Recommendation #1: Align Illinois' student learning standards and assessments to reflect the knowledge and skills students will need for the 21st Century.**

- To achieve true statewide alignment and implementation, Illinois must deploy sustained, intensive communication; professional development; and on-going support to local educators and vigilant monitoring of student outcomes in terms of increased student attainment, reduced need for remediation, and improved completion rates.
- Illinois should reinstate writing as part of the state assessment.
- Illinois should undertake a comprehensive reform of Illinois Learning Standards and state assessments in areas not addressed by the Common Core.
- As the Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS) comes online in 2012, Illinois should utilize the P–20 College and Career Framework to identify the core elements of a research-based definition of college and career readiness, issue specific policy and program recommendations to further align curriculum and accountability systems with this goal, and establish grade-level benchmarks to assess whether students are on track for college or career.



► **Recommendation #2: Develop a system of assessment of student learning that provides reliable measures for accountability and guides to improve instruction and student learning.**

- The state should develop empirically-based college and career readiness benchmarks for elementary, middle, and high school for use in accountability and school improvement.
- Illinois should fund the development of high-quality, formative assessment items; samples of student work; examples of individual learning plans; and other exemplars that reflect mastery of 21st Century skills, Common Core State Standards, and the Next Generation Science Standards as a means of acquainting teachers, families, and students with new expectations for learning at all levels, including early childhood and postsecondary.

► **Recommendation #3: Develop an accountability system which will enable state and local education agencies, educators, parents, students, employers, researchers, and taxpayers to easily access and evaluate data about student learning, school climate, and financial expenditures in schools, districts, community colleges, and universities.**

- In preparation for the release of the School Report Card, the P–20 Council should assist families and other stakeholders to understand and use the Report Card by disseminating informational materials and promoting statewide training networks.
- The P–20 Council should continue to monitor the development of these indicators and linkages between ILDS and the Report Card.
- Illinois should support the development of annual public reports for early childhood and postsecondary education.
- State agencies (including IDES and IDHS), the General Assembly, and the Governor should continue to promote full implementation and use of ILDS and plan for its sustainability when federal funding ends.

▶▶ PROVIDE A CLEAR PATH TO CAREERS

▶ Recommendation #4: Coordinate education and workforce data systems to improve career counseling and career preparation.

- State agencies and the P–20 Council should continue to promote efforts to incorporate workforce and social service data into ILDS and develop public-private partnerships that support career exploration in all fields.
- Illinois should develop a plan for career and technical education that meets workforce and geographic needs throughout the state.

▶▶ DEVELOP AND SUPPORT EFFECTIVE TEACHERS AND LEADERS AT ALL LEVELS OF THE P–20 SYSTEM

▶ Recommendation #5: Enlarge the pipeline of diverse, high-quality candidates into teacher and leadership positions throughout the entire educational system.

- Illinois should implement a long-term, multi-faceted strategic plan for improving the quality and diversity of the pool of candidates for teacher and leadership positions, including early engagement, recruitment, financial incentives, career ladders, and continuous development opportunities.
- As soon as possible, Illinois should undertake a state-wide longitudinal study of teacher, school, and preparation program factors that predict teacher retention and effectiveness.

▶ Recommendation #6: Improve training and certification for teachers and educational leaders in accordance with findings from research and pilot programs.

- ISBE should incorporate the committee’s recommendations into the annual teacher and principal program review process of the Illinois Educator Licensure Board.
- The P–20 Council and the Joint Education Leadership Committee should ensure that ILDS has the capacity to support formative and summative evaluation of teacher and leader preparation reform and impact.

▶ Recommendation #7: Improve teacher evaluation and professional development for the entire education spectrum in accordance with findings from research and pilot programs.

- Illinois should fully fund sustained and extensive professional development and mentoring to create educational work environments that foster excellence and support professional growth for teachers and administrators.



▶▶ ENGAGE FAMILIES, YOUTH, AND COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE IN INCREASING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND MAXIMIZING EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

▶ **Recommendation #8: Improve educational attainment through attention to prevention, intervention, and reengagement.**

- The P–20 Council should ensure that the ILDS has the capacity to track trends in prevention, intervention, and reengagement that are associated with policy and programmatic variations, geographic and demographic differences, and resources.
- Illinois should actively encourage statewide implementation of dual credit and dual enrollment programs, credit recovery strategies, and standard COMPASS cut scores for entry into remedial programs.

▶ **Recommendation #9: Increase public engagement across the entire spectrum of education.**

- The P–20 Council should collaborate with state agencies, the Governor’s Office, and private funders to secure funding to support outreach and dissemination around public understanding of the new Illinois Report Card, reauthorization of ESEA, and educational opportunities for children of military families.

▶▶ PROVIDE ADEQUATE, EQUITABLE, AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING AND SOUND GOVERNANCE TO PROMOTE HIGH-QUALITY, ACCESSIBLE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT ILLINOIS.

▶ **Recommendation #10: Develop a plan for Illinois education governance and finance that promotes high-quality, accessible educational opportunities.**

- The P–20 Council should work to obtain external funding to support the development of a plan for Illinois education governance and finance.

▶ **Recommendation #11: Track and report progress toward the goal.**

- The P–20 Council should develop an annual format for public reporting on the “state of the state’s” P–20 system.

THE ILLINOIS P–20 COUNCIL

Chair: Miguel del Valle, P–20 Council.

Members: Josh Anderson, Teach for America; Jean-Claude Brizard, Chicago Public Schools; Perry Buckley, Cook County College Teachers Union (IFT); Ron Bullock, Bison Gear; Bradley Burzynski, Senate Republican; Thomas L. Choice, Kishwaukee College; Barbara Flynn Currie, House Democrat; Ray Hancock, Community College Foundation; Fr. Dennis Holtschneider, DePaul University; Erika Hunt, Illinois State University; Christine Johnson, Senate Republican; Michael Johnson, Illinois Association of School Boards; Joyce Karon, former ISBE member; Debra Kasperski, National Board Certified Teacher; Maggie Laslo, SEIU; Kimberly Lightford, Senate Democrat; John Luczak, Joyce Foundation; Terry Mazany, Chicago Public Schools; Cordelia “Dea” Meyer, Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago; Jerry Mitchell, House Republican; Gary Niehaus, McLean County Unit Dist. 5; Jeff Owens, Advanced Technology Services; Sharon Thomas Parrott, DeVry, Inc.; Audrey Parsley, Chicago Teachers Union; Cynthia Plouche, Williams Capital Management; Glenn Poshard, Southern Illinois University; Laurel Prussing, Mayor of Urbana; John Rico, Rico Enterprises; Kathy Ryg, Voices for Illinois Children; Audrey Soglin, Illinois Education Association; Robin Steans, Advance Illinois; Debra Strauss, Illinois PTA; Rick Stephens, Boeing Corporation.

Ex-officio: Brenda Klostermann, Illinois Education Research Council; Chris Koch, Illinois State Board of Education; Glenn “Max” McGee, Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy; Geoff Obrzut, Illinois Community College Board; Diana Rauner, Illinois Early Learning Council; George W. Reid, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Warren Ribley, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity; John Sinsheimer, Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

Coordinator: Lizanne DeStefano, University of Illinois; Amber Kirchoff, Office of the Governor.

