Where We Want to Go: The P-20 Recommendations

In January 2011, the Illinois P-20 Council issued initial recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly for developing a seamless statewide system of quality education and support to maximize students’ educational attainment, opportunities for success in the workforce, and contributions to their local communities. Those recommendations were updated and reported upon in January 2012. If all recommendations are met and reforms accomplished, Illinois will be on track to educating students more efficiently and effectively.

The 2012 P-20 Recommendations are as follows:

- **Transform the state education accountability system.**
  1. Align Illinois’ student learning standards and assessments to reflect the knowledge and skills students will need for the 21st Century.
  2. Develop a system of assessment of student learning that provides reliable measures for accountability and guides to improve instruction and student learning.
  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.

- **Provide a clear path to careers.**
  4. Develop, coordinate, and disseminate education and workforce data systems to improve career counseling and career preparation.

- **Develop and support effective teachers and leaders at all levels of the P-20 system.**
  5. Enlarge the pipeline of diverse, high-quality candidates into teacher and leadership positions throughout the entire educational system.
  6. Improve training and certification for teachers and educational leaders in accordance with findings from research and pilot programs.
  7. Improve teacher evaluation and professional development for the entire education spectrum in accordance with findings from research and pilot programs.

- **Engage families, youth, and communities throughout the state in increasing educational opportunities and maximizing educational attainment.**
  8. Improve educational attainment through attention to prevention, intervention, and reengagement.
  9. Increase public engagement across the entire spectrum of education.

- **Provide adequate, equitable, and sustainable funding and sound governance to promote high-quality, accessible educational opportunities throughout Illinois.**
  10. Develop a plan for Illinois education governance and finance that promotes high-quality, accessible educational opportunities.
  11. Track and report progress toward the goal.

This past year we made big strides toward many of these goals. However, several initiatives critical to the success of many of these recommendations are in jeopardy without more collaboration, support, and funding.