

Policy Brief

The Illinois P-20 Longitudinal Policy Research Summit

Summary

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Forum on the Future of Public Education, on November 7, 2009, hosted eighty-four education researchers, agency leaders, and other stakeholders for an engaging discussion of possibilities and challenges associated with Illinois' P-20 longitudinal data system. The main goals of the summit were to 1) create an educational research agenda for Illinois, 2) develop a collaborative process among researchers, agencies, and practitioners, and 3) produce recommendations for Illinois' P-20 longitudinal data integration efforts. <http://forum.illinois.edu/events/illinois-p-20-longitudinal-policy-research-summit>.

A panel consisting of Andrew Davis (Executive Director, ISAC), Judy Ervin (Executive Director, IBHE), Dr. Elaine Johnson (Vice President for Academic Affairs and Workforce Development, ICCB), and Dr. Christopher Koch (State Superintendent, ISBE) discussed Illinois' data integration, coordination, and research collaboration across state agencies that can help us answer key questions about P-20 education.

Following the panel discussion, working groups organized by area of expertise identified and discussed the key research and policy questions in their respective educational fields. The research areas included the following: Teacher Education, Teacher Assessment/Teacher Management, Assessment and Standards, Higher Education Completion/ Financial Aid/Higher Ed Assessment, High School Completion/College Readiness, Early Childhood/ESOL/Special Education, Leadership/School Turnaround, Identifying and Supporting High Needs Students, Community College/Workforce Development, Technology/E-learning/21st Century Skills. Each working group reported recommendations and research questions to the larger group.

After group work by the education researchers, agency leaders, and other stakeholders, a closing panel consisting of Dr. Kathleen Brown (Executive Director, IERC), Dr. Christopher Mazzeo (Assistant Director for Policy and Outreach, CCSR), Dr. John Bennett (Faculty Advisory Committee to IBHE), Dr. Sarah Lubienski (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), and Dr. James Plamer (Illinois State University) suggested guiding principles for Illinois' P-20 data system development, as well as objectives and research-based efforts.

Next Steps

The Forum on the Future of Public Education personnel are preparing an initial report from the Research Summit by analyzing information gathered and by asking participants to reflect on and refine the notes from the working groups. The Forum is asking participants to give additional information and input on the research topics. <http://forum.illinois.edu/content/core-priorities-illinois-research-agenda>