Learning from PISA

On December 3, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will release the latest results from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). Check out the LFA resource page for information on what we can learn from PISA and other international assessments. Read more...

Read Our Inspiring Success Stories

Since late 2007, Public School Insights has posted more than 170 stories about what's working in public schools and districts across the country. Here is a sampling:

- A Texas high school offers students support and an array of rigorous learning opportunities; student achievement scores show their efforts are paying off.
- A Washington elementary school continues its commitment to international learning and fostering citizenship; student performance continues to soar.
- A New York high school shrinks its achievement gap by raising performance across their student population through a rich curriculum for all and targeted support for struggling groups.

Explore Issues of School Health

With Thanksgiving just a couple days away, now is the perfect time to start planning for a healthy and happy holiday. Read more...

Commentary from Public School Insights

- Time to Focus on the Real Education Problem: Poverty. Our country must understand it's a community problem, and in order to fix the problem, a comprehensive plan—extending well beyond school walls—must be put in place.
- The Richest Nation in the World Has the Highest Child Poverty Rate. Perhaps, instead of focusing so narrowly on standardized test scores, teacher quality, and graduation rates, we as a nation should get serious about shining a bright light on the “funding system or systems” for educating our children.
- Brattleboro Area Middle School: An Inspiring Example of Quality Public Education. When the students come first, and not just their test scores, every child — regardless of background — gets the help and support she or he needs to succeed.

Spotlight: AACTE Announces National Launch of edTPA

On November 8, AACTE marked the national launch of edTPA with a briefing at the National Press Club. A report released at the briefing presents results of 2 years of field testing and recommends a passing score for
edTPA, the first preservice performance-based assessment available to every educator preparation program across the country.

The briefing’s panelists celebrated the new measure of teaching readiness as evidence that the teacher preparation profession is taking control of its future. Panelists said using edTPA as part of a multi-measure assessment system encourages continuous improvement by both candidates and programs, and it strengthens partnerships between the PK-12 community and teacher preparation programs. They also agreed that implementing the assessment with integrity will take time and the engagement of all stakeholders.

“This marks a milestone in education: we now have a uniform, evidence-based assessment that will help determine whether a teacher candidate will enter the classroom ready to teach from day one,” said Sharon Robinson, Ed.D., president and CEO of AACTE, who also moderated the panel.

Panelist Dennis Van Roekel, president of the National Education Association (NEA), said the use of assessments such as edTPA supports the NEA’s position that all teachers should be profession-ready before receiving their first teaching assignment. Van Roekel said the movement toward performance-based assessments “is about who we are” as professionals, and that the development of edTPA by the teacher preparation profession is a clear indication that the community is serious about its future.

Spotlight: P-21 Releases Patterns of Innovation Report

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills collaborated with the Pearson Foundation to document outstanding 21st century learning practices that are contributing to student learning and improving schools across the US. These practices from exemplar schools share common features, known as patterns of innovation: Student voice, engaged community, distributed leadership, climate of achievement and evidence & research. You can read the Pattern of Innovations report, developed by Christopher Brown with input from the P21 Exemplar Working Group and staff, here. Also, be sure to learn more about the P21 exemplar case studies by viewing their profiles here.