We didn’t want you to miss these top five recent resources from ECS!

**Rating States, Grading Schools: What Parents and Experts Say States Should Consider to Make School Accountability Systems Meaningful**
This first-of-its-kind report can help policymakers create school “report cards” that are transparent and effective.

**Trends in Teacher Tenure Laws**
This brief and accompanying 50-state database show how teacher performance is playing a growing role in hiring, retention and dismissal.

**State Pre-K Funding: 2013-14 Fiscal Year**
Despite continuing budget constraints, state lawmakers are making significant investments in state-funded pre-K programs.

**Developmental Strategies for College Readiness and Success: What State Policymakers and Education Leaders Need to Know**
ECS and the Southern Regional Education Board collaborated on a resource guide describing efforts in 25 states to reduce the need for college remediation.

**School Safety Policy Changes in 2013 Legislative Sessions**
This report highlights the ongoing efforts of state lawmakers to provide students with safe places to learn.

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**COMMISSIONER SPOTLIGHT**

**Roy Takumi**
Chair, Hawaii House Education Committee
2013-15 ECS Vice Chair
ECS Commissioner: 2005 – present
Steering Committee member: 2010 – present

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**How did you become interested in education issues?**
Although I’ve been in office for 22 years, I really became immersed in education when I became the chair of the education committee 12 years ago. The good news about working on education issues is that people are passionate about it. The bad news? People are passionate about it.

**What ECS resources do you use the most?**
First and foremost, the staff. Any question from A to Z will be responded to quickly and if an answer is not readily available, you will get pointed in the right direction. I also find the research and database links extremely useful. Questions about teacher compensation? Kindergarten? Leadership? A click away.

**What is the top education issue you are working on right now?**
Preschool access. Hawaii is on the cusp on joining 40-plus states in establishing a state-funded, private-public partnership for preschools.

**What do you remember most about your years in school?**
My favorite subject was lunch. Since I graduated from high school with a 1.9 GPA, it’s clear that I’m not exaggerating. Also, Mrs. Rodrigues, my fourth-grade teacher, said that reading books will take you anywhere your imagination can go. She was right.

**What do you do when you aren’t working on education issues?**
Playing with the five grandchildren. Depending on the day, it either keeps you young or ages you prematurely. But even this is educational in nature. Here’s an example. One day I told Kayla (who was then 4), I’ll tell you a word and you tell me its opposite.

I say tall and she says short. I say hot and she says cold. I thought, okay, let’s make it a bit harder. I say expensive. She thinks about it and then says, “On sale!” Smart kid.