

Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS)

Issue 26 • August 30, 2012



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Dear colleagues,

Earlier this month, 27 states and American Samoa met in Seattle for the Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS) state collaborative meeting. Participants focus on building the capacity of state agencies to support classroom level implementation of the Common Core State Standards and preparation for common assessments. In a keynote address to attendees, 2012 National Teacher of the Year Rebecca Mieliwocki offered her perspective as a teacher on how to successfully implement the Common Core. She stressed the importance of communicating with teachers, celebrating forward momentum and results, honoring the implementation dip, and the need for access to standards-aligned content.

State education agency staff may access the meeting materials through our collaborative site, spaces.ccsso.org. Materials include a communications audit on all CCSSO communications resources for states, tip sheets for working with legislators, information on using the publishers' criteria, and how to connect Common Core implementation with other CCSSO initiatives, such as the State Collaborative on Assessment and Student Standards (SCASS) groups and the State Consortium on Educator Effectiveness (SCEE). Check out the ICCS meeting materials folder on spaces.ccsso.org for the resources distributed at Thursday's breakout sessions. State education agency staff may contact [Katey McGettrick](#) to [join the password-protected site](#).

Please do not hesitate to [contact Katey McGettrick](#) with questions, ideas for future newsletters, and success stories from your agencies and classrooms.

Thank you,

CCSSO's Common Core Implementation Team - Carrie Heath Phillips, Margaret Millar, Renata Lewis, and Katey McGettrick

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Spotlight on Idaho: ELA and Math Common Core State Standards Tool Boxes

Idaho has developed Common Core tool boxes for [ELA](#) and [math](#). Each tool box provides an overview of the standards, instructional materials and resources, professional development resources, and information on the new assessments. Embedded in the toolboxes are links to videos and reports to assist educators and the public in better understanding the standards. In addition to developing state-specific material for the tool boxes, Idaho also points readers to existing resources in Ohio and New York. This is a good reminder for states who are in the process of developing resources to look to your colleagues in other states to see if you can share or build upon existing work.

On a related note, [CCSSO has compiled a list of state spotlights](#) to provide states with quick access to sample practices they can quickly and easily review. This resource is offered as a way to facilitate ongoing networking; examples were chosen based on quality and accessibility of information via the web. It is intended to be a quick reference document to support the sharing of lessons learned and is available on the CCSSO website. It will be

updated as we learn of examples of state work. Selections from the document will be highlighted in every newsletter. If you have a resource you would like to share from your state, [please contact Katey McGettrick](#).

ASCD launches EduCore Tool

ASCD introduces the new, free [EduCore™](#) digital tool for educators implementing the Common Core State Standards in both mathematics and literacy. The EduCore tool is a repository of evidence-based strategies, videos, and supporting documents that help middle and high school educators transition to the Common Core State Standards. Through a simple registration process, educators can access additional EduCore features, such as the ability to save searches, organize tools, and annotate resources. In the coming months, ASCD will add more mathematics formative assessment lessons and sample literacy modules. [A webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, October 3](#), at 3:00 p.m. ET to provide an overview of the EduCore tool.

New Common Core Resources on the Inside Mathematics website

Classroom video examples illustrating the math practice standards and videos of exemplary lessons integrating multiple math practices are now available on the Inside Mathematics website. In addition, Common Core-aligned tasks, searchable either by grade level or content area, have been posted. Four new classroom videos of "[Number Talks](#)" show students engaged in mental math exercises and conversations about math, including one from a bilingual Spanish-English classroom. Visit the site at www.insidemathematics.org to explore free materials and tasks that teachers can use immediately with students.

PARCC releases initial set of test items and task prototypes, updated model content frameworks

Last week, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) released its [first set of item and task prototypes for both English language arts/literacy and mathematics](#). The prototype items are early samples or models that may be helpful in building the actual assessment items. They also give educators and the public an early look at what next generation assessment items may look like. Additional prototypes and rubrics will be added over the next two years to paint a more complete picture of the PARCC assessment design in each content area and grade level.

In addition to the release of item and task prototypes, PARCC has released [updated versions of the Model Content Frameworks for ELA/Literacy and Mathematics](#). PARCC held a public comment period in June 2012 asking educators and other stakeholders to provide

suggestions on areas in the frameworks that needed additional specificity or clarity. The Model Content Frameworks for Mathematics now include a revised high school section that provides assessment guidance for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II and Mathematics I, Math II, Math III.

PDK/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward Public Schools contains positive findings on Common Core

The 2012 annual Phi Delta Kappa (PDK)/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward Public Schools, which polls the public on a number of education topics, contains positive findings for the Common Core. According to the report, most Americans believe the Common Core standards will allow U.S. schools to compete globally, and three out of four Americans believe the standards will provide more consistency in the quality of education between school districts and states. In addition, half of those polled believe the standards will improve the quality of education in their community schools. However, 40 percent responded that the standards would not have any effect on education. The positive findings are encouraging, but the need remains high to increase public awareness and understanding of the standards. State education agency staff may log on to our state collaborative site, spaces.ccsso.org, for communications resources, including the CCSS toolkit and customizable, audience-specific brochures. States are also encouraged to partner with parent, community, and business groups to increase awareness about the standards. [Read the full report and findings.](#)

Collaborative project launched to develop granular identifiers and metadata for the Common Core State Standards

The Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced), and the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) – working in partnership with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) – have launched a collaborative, state-centric project (“Granular Identifiers and Metadata for the Common Core State Standards” or GIM-CCSS) to facilitate the long-term technical implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in a digital format that meets the diversity of stakeholder needs in the field, while preserving the conceptual and structural integrity of the standards.

The project is intended to directly extend the Common Core identifier and XML representation work conducted by NGA and CCSSO to allow for enhanced alignment to the Common Core for teaching, professional learning, and assessment purposes. Products of the project will be published as an open standard to enable non-restricted use, maximize

interoperability, and promote extensibility. The intent is to publish a final product by the end of 2012, including resources to support stakeholder technical training and implementation needs. [Learn more about this effort, including how to join the mailing list and to provide potential contributions.](#)

Local Common Core News

In communities across the country, word is getting out about the Common Core through local news outlets. These are great venues to inform parents, teachers, and businesses about the Common Core in your community, whether it is a newspaper article, opinion piece, or blog. This CCSSO newsletter periodically highlights samples of these news items to help teachers, schools, districts, and state education agencies generate ideas of how to spread the word about Common Core in your community. State education agency staff may [contact Kate Dando, CCSSO communications director](#), for assistance with media outreach. If you have a piece you would like to share in an upcoming newsletter, [please email Katey McGettrick](#).

Arkansas

The Courier

August 27, 2012

[RSD steps forward with Common Core](#)

By Preston Tolliver

California

KPBS

August 22, 2012

[Will Common Core Curriculum Clear The Way for Arts In Schools?](#)

By Kyla Calvert

Connecticut

Norwalk Patch

August 25, 2012

[Norwalk School Board Intros 'Common Core' Communication Plan](#)

By Patrick Barnard

Maryland

The Baltimore Sun

August 26, 2012

[School year starts with new curriculum](#)

By Liz Bowie

[New Hampshire](#)

Exeter News-Letter

August 24, 2012

[New school year means new teaching practices](#)

By Aaron Davis

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