



## **Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS)**

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Dear colleagues,

We are looking forward to seeing many of you in two weeks for the August meeting of the Implementing the Common Core Standards state collaborative. As we prepare for this meeting, we want to share with you some of the latest updates and available resources to support your state's implementation work. In particular, we are pleased to announce the launch of the communications toolkit to support local messaging and outreach around the standards. If you have any questions on the Council's implementation efforts, please don't hesitate to reach out, [carrieh@ccsso.org](mailto:carrieh@ccsso.org).

Thank you,

Carrie Heath Phillips

Director, Common Core Implementation

Council of Chief State School Officers

### **Release of CCSSO Communications Toolkit**

- A clear structure for communicating the ongoing benefit of the Common Core is an essential strategy for implementation. CCSSO is releasing a Communications toolkit to provide suggestions and strategies for engaging key stakeholders in support of implementation. Since implementation will vary widely from state to state, this toolkit is designed to help states and their representatives to use their own facts to continue advocating for the standards while sharing consistent messages. The toolkit includes talking points and messaging for key audiences, frequently asked questions (FAQ), draft materials such as blog posts and opinion pieces, and how-to guides for communications outreach. The toolkit is intended to provide options for states to consider when communicating with their unique target audiences. It is intended to be a plug-and-play communications guide that can be utilized and adapted to support and bolster each state communication efforts. To download the toolkit, please click [here](#). For questions or comments, please contact [communications@ccsso.org](mailto:communications@ccsso.org).

## Release of Framework for K-12 Science Education

- On July 19<sup>th</sup> the National Research Council released "A Framework for K-12 Science Education: Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Core Ideas," a conceptual framework to guide the creation of science standards. To access the framework, see the [NRC document](#).
- Achieve will work with a group of states to lead the creation of the science standards in partnership with outside experts using the framework as a guide. The goal is to complete the science standards by the fall of 2012. CCSSO is not leading the development of the science standards.

## English-Language Proficiency Standards

- Stanford University received a grant from the Carnegie Corporation to create English-language proficiency standards for the states. The standards will be designed to parallel the English language arts and mathematics Common Core State Standards.
- For more information, see the [July 12 EdWeek article](#).

## Washington Formally Adopts the Common Core State Standards

- On July 20<sup>th</sup>, Washington State officially adopted the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Washington provisionally adopted the standards last July.
- Washington's formal adoption brings the total number of states who have adopted the Common Core State Standards to 44 states and the District of Columbia. For a detailed list of states, visit <http://www.corestandards.org/in-the-states>.

## ICCS Collaborative Site Success

- Thank you to everyone using the ICCS collaborative site and resource library, [spaces.ccsso.org](http://spaces.ccsso.org). Since the launch of the site a few weeks ago, the site has received thousands of page visits and more than thirty digital resources and links to state resources are now available. If you have any questions on logging-in and using the site, please contact Joe Crawford [joec@ccsso.org](mailto:joec@ccsso.org).
- Please remember to bring your laptop to the ICCS meeting in Minneapolis. We will be hosting all of the meeting materials in the online ICCS resource library and will make use of the site extensively throughout the meeting.

## Registration Closing for ICCS August Meeting

- Registration for the August ICCS meeting closed Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you haven't registered and plan to attend this meeting you will now need to register onsite. Please contact Renata Lewis, [renatal@ccsso.org](mailto:renatal@ccsso.org), if you have any questions.
- Please remember to contact the hotel directly to book your hotel reservations. To ensure you receive the group rate of \$189, please call the Hilton Minneapolis (612.376.1000) and reference that you are with the ICCS meeting.
- We ask that you specifically invite your Public Information Officer (PIO) to attend this meeting. If your PIO is an addition to the original six members of your team, CCSO will cover two nights of hotel and the airfare for your PIO. We would like to include your PIO in conversations about communications.
- To see a draft meeting agenda, please click [August ICCS Draft Meeting Agenda](#).

## CCSSO Offers New ELA SCASS

- **CCSSO is offering a new state collaborative on English Language Arts (ELA) in 2011-2012. This new collaborative will focus on the challenges around standards and student assessments in ELA and the opportunities for state collaboration.**
- We are pleased to announce that Susan Pimentel, a lead writer for the Common Core State Standards for ELA, has agreed to serve as the advisor to work with members of this collaborative.

Information on the costs and the process to become a SCASS member are found at: [www.ccsso.org/scass](http://www.ccsso.org/scass). To register, contact Bob Olsen, [roberto@ccsso.org](mailto:roberto@ccsso.org) or Joe Crawford, [joec@ccsso.org](mailto:joec@ccsso.org).