# Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS) Issue 9 ● November 9, 2011

Dear colleagues,

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, we have something new to be thankful for—Montana has now joined the forty five states and the District of Columbia that have adopted the Common Core State Standards. CCSSO congratulates the leadership of Denise Juneau, Montana's State Superintendent, in ensuring that the students of Montana will be held to high expectations for college and career readiness.

CCSSO is also thankful that so many states have submitted enrollment forms to continue with ICCS in 2011-2012 and so many participants have already registered and booked flights for the upcoming December 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> meeting ICCS meeting in San Diego, CA. The meeting will focus on bridging the gap to higher education to ensure college and career readiness for all students. As a reminder, this will be a great meeting for each state team to bring a representative from higher education to attend.

Today's newsletter contains a spotlight on some of the incredible implementation resources that the Kansas Department of Education is providing to its teachers to support a deep understanding of text complexity. The newsletter also includes a new alignment study by David Conley, the featured speaker at the December ICCS meeting, and a discussion paper on the role of higher education from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities that CCSSO encourages all ICCS participants read to prepare for the upcoming meeting.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions, ideas for future newsletters, and success stories from your agencies and classrooms by contacting Margaret Reed Millar, <a href="margaretm@ccsso.org">margaretm@ccsso.org</a>.

Thank you,
CCSSO's Common Core Implementation Team

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# **ICCS Updates**

- If you have not already done so, please don't forget to complete the **ICCS enrollment form** for 2011-2012.
- CCSSO welcomes Arkansas to the ICCS state collaborative. CCSSO and Arkansas' coach, Sue Gendron, look forward to working collaboratively with the Arkansas team in the year ahead.
- Registration has been sent for the December ICCS meeting in San Diego, CA on December 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Please be sure to book your flights and hotel reservations as soon as possible.
- For questions or concerns about enrollment or registration, please contact Renata Lewis, renatal@ccsso.org.
- To access the survey results from the August meeting of ICCS, which includes information on how states self-identified their progress in communications, professional development, and engaging higher education, please visit the resource library in <a href="mailto:spaces.ccsso.org">spaces.ccsso.org</a>.

# Spotlight on Kansas Common Core State Standards ELA Implementation

Thank you to the Kansas Department of Education for sharing their high quality and innovative resources to support educators in implementing reading standard ten in the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, which addresses text complexity. Kansas has developed and made available:

- A PowerPoint to share with educators that explains text complexity and how to evaluate texts for reader and task considerations, and qualitative and quantitative measures,
- Guidelines for qualitative measures ranges for text complexity bands,
- A rubric for qualitative measures for literary texts,
- A rubric for qualitative measures for informational texts,
- A tool for selecting texts based on reader and task, and
- A template for educators to complete to summarize a final recommendation for use of a text based on text complexity.

Kansas' resources can be accessed directly on their state <u>website</u>, or by visiting the ELA folder in the resource library on <u>spaces.ccsso.orq</u>.

# **Montana Officially Adopts the Common Core State Standards**

On November 4, 2011, the Montana Board of Public Education officially adopted the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics, with the full endorsement of Superintendent Juneau.

- Due to its unique constitutional requirement, Montana will be the only state to incorporate Indian Education for All into the standards for English Language Arts and Math.
- Implementation of Montana's Common Core State Standards will coincide with new tests being developed for use in the 2014-2015 school year.
- For more information, see <u>EdWeek's article</u> on Montana's adoption.

#### APLU Releases Discussion Paper on the Role of Higher Education in Implementing the Standards

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) released a draft discussion paper, titled <u>The Common Core State Standards and Teacher Preparation: The Role of Higher Education</u>. The paper was undertaken by The Leadership Collaborative (TLC) and was supported by a Mathematics & Science Partnership grant from the National Science Foundation. TLC is part of the Science and Mathematics Teacher Imperative, an initiative of APLU, 125 public research universities, and 12 university systems.

- The paper can be found through APLU's <u>website</u> and is available in the December 2011 ICCS meeting folder on <u>spaces.ccsso.org</u>.
- The authors of the paper are currently accepting comments. To comment, contact <a href="SMTI@aplu.org">SMTI@aplu.org</a>.
- CCSSO encourages you to read this paper in advance of the December ICCS meeting, given the agenda's focus on college readiness and engaging higher education.

# Learning Forward Selects Kentucky to Develop Professional Development System to Support Teachers Implementing Common Core State Standards

Kentucky will serve as the demonstration site for a new, statewide professional-development model. Learning Forward, a professional development organization formerly known as the National Staff Development Council (NSDC), is leading the effort, with funding from the Sandler Foundation. Six other states—Georgia, Illinois, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Utah and Washington will serve as 'critical friends' to help develop the new professional development system.

- CCSSO, the National Governors Association, the National Association of State Boards of Education, and the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education are involved in the project.
- For more information, visit learningforward.org and read EdWeek's reporting on the announcement.

# **EPIC Releases an Alignment Study on the Common Core State Standards**

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, the Educational Policy Improvement Center, led by Dr. David Conley, released an alignment study on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The study compared the CCSS to the content and curriculum standards for Massachusetts and California; the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards, the International

Baccalaureate standards, and the Knowledge and Skills for University Success. The study found the CCSS to be generally aligned to the leading state standards, international standards, and university standards at the high-school-exit level, but more rigorous in some content areas.

- Access the study by visiting EPIC's <u>website</u> or the resource library on <u>spaces.ccsso.org</u>.
- Access <u>EdWeek's reporting</u> on the study, which includes a statement from CCSSO's Senior Membership Director, Chris Minnich
- Dr. Conley will be the keynote speaker for the December ICCS meeting, presenting his research on college readiness during our opening dinner on Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

# NGA Releases Common Core State Standards Implementation Guide for Governors

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, the National Governors Association (NGA) released a report, *Realizing the Potential: How Governors Can Lead Effective Implementation of the Common Core State Standards*, to provide governors and other state policymakers with guidance to transition their school systems to the standards.

The guide can be accessed on NGA's website, and can be found on spaces.ccsso.org.

# Webinar on the Impact of Accountability Waivers on Education Reform

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, The Coalition for a College and Career Ready America hosted a webinar titled <u>Waivers from Washington</u>, <u>DC</u>: <u>What Does the Obama Administration's New Flexibility Policy Mean for Education Reform?</u> The webinar featured discussion and analysis on the new accountability waivers from:

- Bob Wise, President, Alliance for Excellent Education,
- Chris Minnich, Senior Membership Director, Council of Chief State School Officers,
- Michael T.S. Wotorson, Executive Director, Campaign for High School Equity,
- Cheryl Oldham, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and
- Lexi Barrett, Special Assistant, U.S. Department of Education

# Math Common Core Coalition Launches www.MathCCC.org

The Math Common Core Coalition (MC<sup>3</sup>) recently launched a new website, <a href="http://www.mathccc.org/">http://www.mathccc.org/</a> to share resources, events, and ideas for successful implementation of the CCSS for mathematics.

- If you have any feedback on the website, please contact <a href="margaretm@ccsso.org">margaretm@ccsso.org</a>.
- MC<sup>3</sup> is composed of organizations committed to the successful communication, interpretation, implementation, and assessment of the Common Core State Standards for mathematics.
- Members include CCSSO, NGA, Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, PARCC assessment consortium, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), the National Council of Supervisors

of Mathematics (NCSM), the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (AMTE), and the Association of State Supervisors of Mathematics (ASSM).

# PIE Network Issues Policy Brief on Winning the Fight for Standards Implementation

The PIE Network, a network of 34 education advocacy organizations, released a policy brief, titled <u>Winning the Fight for Standards Implementation</u>. The author, Kathleen Porter-Magee, is the Senior Director of the High Quality Standards Program at the Thomas B. Fordham Institute.

# Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) Version 2 Final Draft Public Comment Period Begins

The Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) Version 2 Final Draft is now available for public comment. The Version 2 Final Draftincludes a elements spanning much of the P-20 spectrum and provides context for understanding the standards' interrelationships and practical utility.

- CEDS is a specified set of the most commonly used education data elements. These voluntary standards
  are being developed to support the effective exchange of data as students transfer within and across
  states and transition between education sectors. The standards will also aid in streamlining federal
  reporting. This common vocabulary will improve the consistency and comparability of data throughout all
  education levels and sectors, and enable more effective use of data to support improved student
  achievement.
- The Version 2 StandardFinal Draft can be found at the NCES <u>website</u>, through which users can submit comments on the final draft standards.
- All comments must be submitted by November 28thin order to be considered for the Version 2 release in January 2012.

# PARCC Issues First Invitation to Negotiate (ITN)

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) issued a threepart Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) to support technology architecture services, systems implementation and interoperability standards.

- This is the first of a number of solicitations PARCC will be issuing in the fall and winter of 2011.
- Bids will be accepted until November 18, 2011 and the winning bid will be announced soon after.
- To access the ITN, visit <u>parcconline.orq</u>.