



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

**Issue 10 • December 14, 2011**

Dear colleagues,

Thank you to everyone who attended the December ICCS meeting in San Diego. It was exciting to see the members of the 28 states in ICCS engaged in professional development, state planning and discussion, and sharing effective practices across states. If you are interested in accessing any of the meeting materials from any sessions, including Dr. David Conley's presentation on College and Career Readiness and including reimbursement information, please visit the resource library on [spaces.ccsso.org](http://spaces.ccsso.org). If you have any issues accessing the site, please contact Joe Crawford, [joec@ccsso.org](mailto:joec@ccsso.org).

As you plan your calendar for 2012, we hope that you'll plan to join us on **April 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2012** and **August 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2012** for the next ICCS meetings. More information on locations and agendas will be forthcoming.

We will also send more information in January 2012 about two new resources CCSSO is currently developing in response to your requests—customizable one-page handouts on the Common Core State Standards for use with various audiences, and webinars focused on specific areas of Common Core implementation.

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, [margaretm@ccsso.org](mailto:margaretm@ccsso.org).

Thank you,  
CCSSO's Common Core Implementation Team

**Featured in this newsletter:**

- **Featured Resource: Engaging Parents on the Common Core State Standards**
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**Featured Resource: Engaging Parents on the Common Core State Standards**

The National PTA developed The Parents' Guide to Student Success in response to the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics. The National PTA website offers free guides for grades K-8 and two grades 9-12 (one for English language arts/literacy and one for mathematics). Each guide includes:

- Key items that children should be learning in English language arts and mathematics in each grade, once the standards are fully implemented.
- Activities that parents can do at home to support their child's learning.
- Methods for helping parents build stronger relationships with their child's teacher.
- Tips for planning for college and career (high school only).

The guides are available for free download in English and Spanish by clicking [here](#). If you are interested in customizing these brief guides to your state context, please contact [Margaret Millar](#) and she will put you in touch with the appropriate contact at the PTA.

## **Feedback Requested on Head Start Roadmap to Collaboration**

The National Head Start Association in partnership with The Source for Learning, Inc. developed the *[Roadmap to Collaboration: Correlation of the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework with the Common Core State Standards in Kindergarten](#)*.

This document serves as a crosswalk from pre-school learning expectations to Kindergarten standards.

The deadline for recommendations and comments on this document has been extended to December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011 to provide CCSSO members and their colleagues in state agencies an opportunity to provide input. Click here to access the correlation document and a link to a survey for comments. Please contact [Mari Blaustein](#), Director of Early Childhood Initiatives, The Source of Learning, Inc. ([mblaustein@sflinc.org](mailto:mblaustein@sflinc.org)) with any questions.

## **Webinar on State Implementation of Common Core State Standards**

**On Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. EST, the Coalition for a College and Career Ready America will host a webinar titled *Core Standards: Common in their Development; Wholly Owned by States and Districts in their Implementation*.**

**Register and submit questions for the webinar by clicking [here](#). Panelists include Laura Bednar of the Arkansas Department of Education and Felicia Cummings Smith of the Kentucky Department of Education.**

**The webinar will address questions such as:** What are the benefits and challenges around these new, higher standards? How quickly can states expect to see a difference in student preparation for college and the workplace? At this early stage, what can be learned from states and districts on the front lines of implementation? And what questions should stakeholders and advocates ask their state and local leaders about the implementation work underway in their own communities?

## **New Reports on Common Core State Standards for Mathematics**

- North Carolina State University, with support from the National Science Foundation, recently released a report featuring recommendations for teacher professional development for the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. To access the report, visit [spaces.ccsso.org](http://spaces.ccsso.org) or click [here](#).

- Horizon Research, Inc. recently released **A Priority Research Agenda for Understanding the Influence of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics**. This report details the rationale for, and recommendations of, a priority research agenda for understanding the influence of the CCSSM. It concludes with methodological considerations for carrying out the proposed agenda. The priority research agenda was developed with broad-based input from mathematics education and policy researchers. To access the report, visit [spaces.ccsso.org](http://spaces.ccsso.org) or click [here](#).

## **Assessment Updates and Information**

### **Formative Assessment Webinar**

On Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. EST, the Regional Educational Laboratory Northeast and Islands will host a webinar on **State Supported Formative Assessment Initiatives in New York and Vermont**. To register for the free webinar, click [here](#).

### **Primer on Common Assessments**

On Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, Catherine Gewertz, assistant editor of EdWeek moderated a discussion between Joe Willhoft, executive director of the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium and Laura Slover, senior vice president of the PARCC consortium. The one-hour webinar provided a briefing on the two consortia test designs and the range of instructional tools both are planning. To access the recording of the webinar or to share with others, please click [here](#).

### **New Smarter Balanced RFP Released**

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium released an RFP for the Item Authoring and Item Pool (RFP 07) application. Proposals are due by Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The Consortium is seeking to acquire and implement an application that can support item authoring and development activities as well as store and retrieve the pool of items available for use by the summative and interim assessment system. The RFP is available by clicking [here](#).

## **Smarter Balanced Releases Revised Content Specifications for Mathematics**

SMARTER Balanced announced recently that the Consortium's revised content specification for mathematics is available for review. This draft reflects revisions based on feedback from more than 200 individuals and organizations. Stakeholders will have until **11:59 p.m.**

**Pacific time on Tuesday, January 3, 2012** to submit feedback on this final review of the Mathematics Content Specifications.

- Once finalized, the content specifications for mathematics and ELA/literacy will serve as the basis for the SMARTER Balanced system of summative and interim assessments and formative assessment support for teachers.
- The Mathematics Content Specifications materials are available [here](#). Instructions on how to provide feedback are posted at the same location.

## **PARCC Releases Model Content Frameworks**

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) released the Model Content Frameworks that will be used to inform the development of item specifications and blueprints for K-12 assessments in English and math. The frameworks also provide support and guidance for implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

- The frameworks were created through a collaborative process that included state experts and writers of the Common Core State Standards. Nearly 1,000 individual comments were submitted from K-12 educators, principals, superintendents, higher education faculty, school board members, parents and students. The writing teams took that feedback into account when revising the model content frameworks.
- The Model Content Frameworks are intended to be dynamic and responsive to evidence and on-going input. As such, PARCC hopes they will be used by educators for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year. In the spring of 2012, PARCC will again solicit feedback on the Model Content Frameworks, and a refined version will be issued that incorporates feedback as needed. In this way, the Model Content Frameworks can evolve to reflect the experiences of educators and students.
- For more information or to view the frameworks and to listen to webinar discussions

of the frameworks, click [here](#).