



Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS)

Issue 12 • February 3, 2012

Dear colleagues,

Today's newsletter highlights CCSSO's new webinar series and other new resources available to support Common Core implementation, including a free video series of teachers sharing Common Core lesson ideas. There are also several new reports on standards, including existing state science standards and the Common Core State Standards.

We are also excited to announce renewed collaboration with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). We hope that through this collaboration CCSSO will be able to provide states with resources on how to support principals and school leaders in transitioning to the Common Core. To that end, we will hold a joint teleconference on **Wednesday, February 15, at 1 p.m. EST**, to seek input from states on their needs in this area. Details on how to join the call are below.

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

Thank you,
CCSSO's Common Core Implementation Team

Featured in this newsletter:

- **Accountability Waiver Application Support**

- **GE Foundation Invests \$18 Million in Common Core Work**
- **CCSSO-NASSP-NAESP Teleconference on Supporting Principals and School Leaders**
- **CCSSO Webinar on Text Complexity – Recording Now Available**
- **Registration Open for February 23 Webinar for SEA staff on Common Core Communications**
- **Save the Date: March Webinar on Connecting Educator Effectiveness and Common Core Implementation**
- **Teaching Channel Videos: Common Core Lesson Ideas**
- **Frederick County (MD) Public Schools Produces “Eye on Common Core” Video Series**
- **REL Program Releases reports on college reading, Common Core standards, and English Language learners**
- **Center for Education Policy Report on Common Core Implementation**
- **Report on The State of State Science Standards**

Accountability Waiver Application Support

CCSSO continues to support states applying for accountability waivers. To access CCSSO’s public summaries of the applications of each state that applied for the November 14th deadline, visit CCSSO’s website. To view CCSSO’s cross-state analysis of Principle 2 responses, visit [here](#). If you have any additional questions about the waiver process or you are interested in exploring ways that CCSSO can support you in your application, please contact [Kirsten Taylor](#).

[Please visit the U.S. Department of Education web site](#) for additional information on the waiver process and guidance. Included in the Department’s resources are PowerPoint slides and a recording of a January 18th presentation entitled [“ESEA flexibility: Lessons Learned from November 14th Submissions”](#).

GE Foundation Invests \$18 Million in Common Core Work

The GE Foundation's \$18 million Common Core grant will focus on helping teachers understand the shifts in instruction necessary for the new standards and will build a storehouse of free resources for them to use. Some of the grant money will be used for training institutes hosted by Student Achievement Partners, and some will be used for direct collaboration with teachers nationally, in person and on the Web, to produce examples of good instruction on the standards. Whatever Student Achievement Partners develops in support of the common standards will be available for free on achievethecore.org.

CCSSO-NASSP-NAESP Teleconference on Supporting Principals and School Leaders

CCSSO, NASSP, and NAESP invite interested state education agency staff to a conversation on how to support principals and school leaders through the transition to the Common Core on February 15, at 1 p.m. EST.

All SEA staff are welcome. To join the call:

At 1 p.m. EST on Wednesday, February 15th, [join the meeting by clicking on this link](#). Enter your name, your email address, then click join. Instructions will automatically appear on your screen on how to join the teleconference. You can also join the call by dialing the toll-free call-in number: 1-866-469-3239, and entering access code 719 287 137.

CCSSO Webinar on Text Complexity – Recording Now Available

The recording of the January 26 webinar on text complexity and the accompanying materials are now [available online](#). The webinar, which focused on tools and resources to support teachers and districts on text complexity, featured Sue Pimentel, a member of the Common Core State Standards English language arts writing committee, as well as representatives from the Kansas and Louisiana Departments of Education.

Registration Open for February 23 Webinar on Common Core Communications

On February 23rd, 2012 at 2 p.m. EST, CCSSO will release a series of customizable one page handouts to communicate the Common Core State Standards quickly and easily with district leaders, legislators, and other audiences. During this webinar, CCSSO communications staff will share how best to use this new resource and answer any questions. Registration is limited to SEA staff only. [Register for this event](#).

Save the Date: March 13th Webinar on Connecting Educator Effectiveness and Common Core Implementation

CCSSO will host a webinar on March 13th from 2:00- 2:30 p.m. EST on the topic of Connecting Educator Effectiveness and Common Core Implementation. More details on speakers and on registration will be forthcoming.

Free Resource for Teachers: Videos of Common Core Lessons

There are over 70 [free videos related to Common Core instruction available on the Teaching Channel](#).

The videos provide lesson ideas, an overview of the ELA and Math standards, and demonstrations of teaching practices. Videos vary in length from five to thirty minutes.

Communicating Locally: Frederick County (MD) Public Schools Produces “Eye on Common Core” Video Series

For an example of communicating with local parents and community members on the Common Core State Standards, visit Frederick County Maryland’s new TV series, “Eye on the Common Core.” [The first episode of the series](#), which focused on how the Common Core Standards will affect the district’s Secondary Math curriculum, recently aired on the district’s local public access channel.

Center for Education Policy Report on Common Core Implementation

On January 25, 2012, the Center on Education Policy (CEP) released a report, [Year Two of Implementing the Common Core State Standards: States’ Progress and Challenges](#). This report, the second in a series by CEP about state implementation of the CCSS, is based on a fall 2011 survey of 35 Common Core State Standards-adopting states (including the District of Columbia), and examines states’ progress in transitioning the new standards.

REL Program Releases Reports on College Reading and Common Core State Standards

The Regional Educational Laboratories recently released a series of studies, including:

- [How prepared are subgroups of Texas students for college-level reading? Applying a Lexile®-based approach](#); and
- [Plans to adopt and implement Common Core State Standards in the Southeast Region states](#).

Report on The State of State Science Standards

On January 31, The Thomas B. Fordham Institute released its report, [The State of State Science Standards](#). This report, funded by the Carnegie Corporation, is the first Fordham review of state science standards since 2005. States were rated on an A-F scale, based on Fordham’s evaluation of the standards’ content and rigor and clarity and specificity.