



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

**Issue 13 • February 10, 2012**

Dear colleagues,

We would like to inform you of an upcoming deadline for commenting on a [Federal Register notice posted by the U.S. Department of Education regarding comprehensive centers](#). The notice seeks comments for its proposed priorities, requirements and selection criteria for the upcoming re-competition for the national content centers and regional comprehensive centers. One of the proposed new national content centers is the Center on Standards and Assessments Implementation, which would address Common Core and common assessment implementation. CCSSO will be submitting comments on the proposed new content centers, and we would like to incorporate state perspectives in the response. State education agencies may send comments to [Carrie Heath Phillips](#) for inclusion in CCSSO's response. If your agency would like to submit comments directly the Department, send them **on or before February 22** to [Fran Walter](#) (202-205-9198).

In addition, today's newsletter includes information on a CCSSO-NGA initiative to tag the Common Core Standards and to develop an XML version of the CCSS. It is expected that a draft of the XML version and identifiers will be released for comment this spring. Additional details are available below.

As a reminder for states who are members of the ICCS collaborative, registration is now available for the April 18-20 meeting in Atlanta. This meeting will focus on preparing and supporting educators and administrators to transform student learning. For questions about registration, please contact [Renata Lewis](#).

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 and Katey McGettrick

### **Featured in this newsletter:**

- **CCSSO and NGA Partner to Tag the Common Core Standards, Develop XML Version**

- **Governing Magazine Highlights Common Core Implementation Efforts in Four States**
- **The Illustrative Mathematics Project Posts Additional Common Core Sample Problems**
- **CCSSO Offers Online Tool to Compare Current Classroom Instruction to the Common Core**
- **ETS seeks feedback on its ELA Competency Model and Provisional Learning Progressions**
- **NGA Releases Brief Outlining State Strategies for Awarding Credits Based on Student Learning**
- **NCHEMS Publishes Report on Engaging Higher Education in Developing New Assessments**
- **Upcoming Events**

### **CCSSO and NGA Partner to Tag the Common Core Standards, Develop XML Version**

CCSSO and NGA are in the process of developing official identifiers (metadata/tagging) for the CCSS and an XML version that can be used consistently across the field. CCSSO and NGA have engaged the standards writers in this process to ensure that the meaning of the standards does not get lost in this technical process. Additionally, CCSSO and NGA will work with states and other partners to gain insights and feedback throughout the process. It is anticipated that a draft of the XML and identifiers will be released in spring 2012 for feedback. The goal is to make the XML version and identifiers publically available on [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org) at the conclusion of the formal feedback process. Updates on this project will be shared through this newsletter as they become available.

### **Governing Magazine Highlights Common Core Implementation Efforts in Four States**

On February 7, Governing magazine [published an article highlighting the Common Core implementation efforts in four states](#). The article highlights implementation efforts in Kentucky, West Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia. If you have press on your state's implementation efforts that you would like to share, please send it to Katey McGettrick for inclusion in a future newsletter.

### **The Illustrative Mathematics Project Posts Additional Common Core Sample Problems**

The Illustrative Mathematics Project, chaired by lead math CCSS writer Bill McCallum, [posted additional Common Core sample problems to its website](#). New tasks will be posted to the web site on a weekly basis. Complete lists of the standards with associated tasks can be found by clicking "Show only illustrated standards" on the K-8 content standards with illustrations and High School content standards with illustrations pages.

### **CCSSO Offers Online Tool to Compare Current Classroom Instruction to the Common Core**

CCSSO offers a web-based system for collecting and reporting consistent, reliable, and comparable data on current instruction across many classrooms, schools, and districts. The Surveys of Enacted Curriculum, developed by the State Collaborative on Assessment and Student Standards (SEC SCASS), allows educators

and SEA professionals to access the [SEOnline.org system](#) and conduct web-based reporting by teachers on current instruction and curriculum taught in their classrooms. SEOnline.org provides full-color graphics and data charts that allow educators to compare the consistency of current classroom instruction with what is now expected under the Common Core. For more information, please contact [Rolf Blank](#).

### **ETS seeks feedback on ELA Competency Model and Provisional Learning Progressions**

ETS researchers have been working for several years on the development of learning progressions in English-language Arts and Mathematics as the conceptual foundation for a project called CBAL™ — Cognitively Based Assessment of, for, and as Learning. The goal of the CBAL™ ELA Competency Model and Provisional Learning Progressions is, through use of empirically-based, learning-sciences research, offer new insights into how best to design Common Core assessment, instruction, and professional development so that they have maximum positive. ETS invites interested parties to review, discuss and offer feedback on ETS's work to date on learning progressions within English-language Arts, which is available on the [CBAL web site](#). ETS seeks [feedback](#) on any part of the ELA competency model and learning progressions, as well as on the linkages to the Common Core ELA standards.

### **NGA Releases Brief Outlining State Strategies for Awarding Credits Based on Student Learning**

Awarding credits based on student mastery of content and skills can remove barriers to increasing student readiness for college and careers, [according to a new issue brief released by the National Governors Association](#). The brief recommends policies that states can pursue to encourage the use of alternative methods of awarding credit and to establish competency-based education systems. Moving to competency-based education is related to Common Core implementation since, as the report states, "Reforms such as the Common Core State Standards, which aim to increase student readiness for college and careers, are hampered, in part, by an underlying education system that dictates inputs such as the amount of time required of students to complete a course (commonly referred to as "seat time")."

### **NCHEMS Publishes Report on Engaging Higher Education in Developing New Assessments**

[A new report from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems \(NCHEMS\)](#) identifies the conditions that can help build consensus between state K-12 and postsecondary systems on policy issues. It specifically makes recommendations for meaningful involvement by higher education in the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and assessments by identifying criteria that reflect a state's capacity for alignment between K-12 and higher education as well as the hallmarks of what meaningful higher education involvement looks like.

### **Upcoming Events**

- **CCSSO-NASSP-NAESP Teleconference on Supporting Principals and School Leaders in Common Core Implementation**

**(For State Education Agency Staff Only)**

Wednesday, February 15, 1 p.m. EST.

Dial-in Number: 1-866-469-3239

Access Code: 719 287 137

- **TaskStream Webinar: How the Common Core Will Impact College Readiness and Teacher Education**

Wednesday, February 22, 2 p.m. EST

TaskStream is hosting a webinar on the implications of the Common Core for Teacher Preparation and Higher Education in general. Dr. Janice Poda of CCSSO and Dr. Verna Lowe of Asbury University will provide an inside look at the creation and future of a new educational framework that no teacher preparation program, or indeed any college or university, can afford to ignore. [Register for this event.](#)

- **CCSSO Webinar on Common Core Communications  
(For State Education Agency Staff Only)**

Thursday, February 23, 2 p.m. EST.

[Register for this event.](#)

- **CCSSO Webinar on Connecting Educator Effectiveness and Common Core Implementation  
(Open to All)**

Tuesday, March 13, 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. EST. Registration details forthcoming.

**College Board – NASSP Webinar Series: School Leadership for Common Core Standards and College and Career Readiness**

o February 15, 4 p.m. EST: School Leadership for Common Core Standards: Mathematics

o February 29, 4 p.m. EST: School Wide Instructional Practices

o March 14, 4 p.m. EST: School Leadership Role

o March 28, 4 p.m. EST: Changing School Culture and Climate