



Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS)

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Dear colleagues,

On Friday, March 16, Scholastic released [*Primary Sources: America's Teachers on the Teaching Profession*](#), which included survey results from more than 10,000 teachers on a range of topics, including their views on schools, teacher evaluation, and the Common Core State Standards. The report's key findings include:

- The vast majority of teachers (78%) are now aware of the Common Core State Standards.
- Nearly two-thirds (64%) believe common standards across all states will have a strong impact on student achievement, and they understand the steps necessary to implement the standards well.
- 64 percent said that common standards and 79 percent said clear curriculum would make a significant impact on improving student achievement.
- Where implementation of the CCSS is concerned, most teachers that are aware of the CCSS perceive themselves to be prepared to teach to the new standards (73%). When pressed for what is needed for proper implementation, these classroom practitioners also voice concerns both about funding and adequate supports for themselves and struggling students.

We would also like to call to your attention a date change for CCSSO's upcoming webinar on engaging higher education. Originally scheduled for this Thursday, March 22, the webinar will now be held on Thursday, April 5 at 2 p.m. EDT. [Register for this event.](#)

ICCS state members: The updated agenda for our upcoming meeting on April 18-20 in Atlanta, GA is now available on our collaborative site, spaces.ccsso.org (password protected). Our team will continue to update this folder with meeting information as it becomes available. If you are experiencing any trouble registering or booking your hotel or flight arrangements, 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, Renata Lewis, and Katey McGettrick

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North Carolina unpacks standards for teachers

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has posted a number of Common Core instructional support tools for teachers, including documents unpacking the standards and graphic organizers to assist teachers in engaging students in the new standards. The unpacking documents demonstrate, at a granular level, the knowledge and skills students are expected to master at a particular grade. The content specific graphic organizers are visual representations to assist the student in organizing abstract “big picture” information that is new, overwhelming or misunderstood in the new standards. [These resources and more are available on the department's web site.](#)

Midwest Common Core Consortium meets in Illinois to discuss high-quality instruction

The Midwest Common Core Consortium, in collaboration with Great Lakes East and Great Lakes West comprehensive centers, convened in Illinois on March 14, 2012, for the most recent meeting in its regional learning series on the Common Core State Standards. The consortium, comprised of five states – Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin – was joined by experts from Learning Forward, Doing What Works, the Center on Instruction, and the Teaching Channel to focus on high-quality instruction. Highlights of the resources shared at the meeting include: information on CCSSO and Learning Forward's initiative in Kentucky to create a statewide, comprehensive system for professional learning; an update from the [Teaching Channel](#) on its upcoming release of new videos that show the progression of teaching a Common Core standard from introduction to mastery; Doing What Works' Clearinghouse of resources, including a [fractions instruction guide for K-8](#); and an introduction to the [Common Core resources on the Center of Instruction's site](#), including webinars and teacher guides on Common Core instruction. For more information about the

resources from the meeting, please [contact Katey McGettrick](#).

ECS outlines approaches for states to define college readiness

The April 2012 issue of the Education Commission of the States' (ECS) [*The Progress of Education Reform*](#) considers potential ways states might define "college readiness." For each approach, ECS outlines potential benefits and drawbacks to the approach as well as key components to consider. One approach the issue explores is aligning performance expectations with state standards. As states work on defining college readiness, these approaches could be a good starting point for conversations with K-12 and higher education.

Suggested arrangement of the high school math standards into courses now available

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Pearson Foundation funded the development of an arrangement of high school Common Core math standards into courses. Although not the author of the course design work, Bill McCallum [posted the files on his blog](#), which serves to share a wide variety of promising mathematics resources to support Common Core implementation. The files provide graphic displays of the arrangement of the standards into both traditional and integrated math course sequences, with an accompanying description of the arrangement.

ASCD offers new institute series and free webinars to help educators nationwide implement Common Core State Standards

ASCD is offering a new institute series and free webinars to help educators nationwide implement the new Common Core State Standards. There will be a series of institutes for both the ELA and math standards that will conclude in early June. All of ASCD's Common Core institutes will be led by national experts who will introduce strategies and plans for determining readiness, new curriculum and assessment tools, and instructional shifts for the new ELA and math standards. To see the complete list of cities and dates for all of ASCD's Common Core institutes, [visit the series homepage](#).

In addition, ASCD is offering a series of free webinars on the Common Core. The first webinar was held on March 13 and focused on creating communities of support for implementing the Common Core Standards. The next webinar is April 3; attendees at this webinar will learn how to develop formative and summative classroom assessments that will prepare teachers and students for the new demands of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, support student learning, and align to the Common Core standards. To listen to archived webinars and to register for upcoming ASCD webinars on Common Core, [please visit the ASCD website](#) or the "past and upcoming events" section of the newsletter.

NCTE resources to support teachers with Common Core implementation

The NCTE Book Series and Virtual Conference Recordings, Supporting Students in a Time of Core Standards, explore how student-centered teaching remains crucial to every classroom and provides examples of

upholding NCTE principles of effective teaching in a time of Core Standards. The series is focused on helping teachers and schools interpret the Common Core State Standards, contextualize and connect to the CCSS, and plan units of instruction keeping students at the center and teachers as decision-makers. You may [learn about the book series and virtual conference on NCTE's website](#).

Teacher voice on the Common Core

Education Week's teacher blog, [Teaching Ahead: A Roundtable](#), is highlighting teacher perspectives on Common Core implementation in its current topical discussion. Practicing teachers were asked to reflect on how implementation will change their own planning and instruction, the kinds of supports and professional development they need to transition to the standards, and the impact of the standards on student achievement. The blog posts also point to helpful resources and provide on-the-ground perspectives of how implementation is working for teachers in their communities.

Past and Upcoming Events

- On March 13, ASCD hosted a webinar on "Creating Communities of Support for Implementing the Common Core State Standards". The webinar provided information on how district, school, and classroom personnel can collaborate and create communities of support toward successful implementation. [Listen to a recording of the webinar and view the associated materials](#).
- **March 29, 4 p.m. EDT:** Schools Moving Up Webinar on Designing Quality Units Aligned to the ELA Common Core State Standards. Kathy Glass, President of Glass Educational Consulting, will present on a process for using sample ELA Common Core standards to map comprehensive units of study and design effective summative assessments. Schools Moving Up is a [WestEd](#) initiative to connect schools and districts with experts, resources, and each other on topics related to improving student outcomes. [Register for this event](#).
- **April 3, 3:00 p.m. EDT:** ASCD webinar on "Common Core: Assessment Shifts". Participants will discover the kinds of formative and summative classroom assessments that best coordinate with the new generation of testing consortia for the common core. Participants will take a close look at the SBAC and PARCC assessments and discover how to create classroom assessments that form a balanced system which supports student learning and aligns to the Common Core Standards. [Register for this event](#).
- **April 5, 2 p.m. EDT** (*Rescheduled from March 22*): Engaging Higher Education in Common Core Implementation. CCSSO will host a webinar on engaging higher education in Common Core Implementation. This webinar will include the release of a new rubric for states to evaluate their engagement with local institutions of higher education and reflections from Sharmila Basu Conger from the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO). This event is open to all. [Register for](#)

[this event](#).

- **April 17, 3:00 p.m. EDT:** ASCD webinar on "Common Core State Standards for Mathematics: Shifts and Instructional Implications". Participants will learn about the overarching priorities of the Common Core State Standards for mathematics. Sandra Alberti from Student Achievement Partners will discuss the major instructional shifts required by the standards, including the evidence behind the shifts. These same shifts will be represented in both consortia assessments. Additionally, Alberti will present a few recommendations regarding how to introduce changes in a thoughtful, concrete way to prepare both teachers and students for full implementation of the standards. [Register for this event](#).
- **April 26, 1:30 p.m. EDT:** Schools Moving Up Webinar on "A Case Study of Online Professional Development at the State Level to Support the Common Core". Brenda Wright and Sarah Galetti from the Arizona Department of Education will discuss the e-Learning for Educators Consortium as an approach for meeting Common Core training needs for Arizona teachers. [Register for this event](#).
- **May 2, 3:00 p.m. EDT:** ASCD webinar on Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy: Shifts and Instructional Implications". Participants will learn about the overarching priorities of the Common Core State Standards for English language arts and literacy. Sandra Alberti will discuss the major instructional shifts required by the standards, including the evidence behind the shifts. These same shifts will be represented in both consortia assessments. Additionally, Alberti will present a few recommendations regarding how to introduce changes in a thoughtful, concrete way to prepare both teachers and students for full implementation of the standards. [Register for this event](#).
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