



Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS)

Issue 17 • April 5, 2012

Dear colleagues,

The Tri-State Collaborative, comprised of educational leaders from Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island and facilitated by Achieve, has developed criterion-based rubrics and review processes to evaluate the quality of lessons and units intended to address the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and ELA/Literacy. [The rubrics are posted on engageny.org](#), along with the slides that explain how to use each rubric.

ICCS state members: Sarah Brown Wessling, 2010 National Teacher of the Year and keynote speaker at the opening dinner for the April ICCS meeting in Atlanta, was [recently featured in an *Education Week* article on incorporating more informational text into the curriculum](#). Her remarks at the ICCS conference will focus on supporting educators to transform student learning through Common Core implementation.

The updated agenda for our upcoming meeting on April 18-20 in Atlanta, GA is 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

Featured in this newsletter:

- **Council on Foreign Relations issues report on U.S. education reform and national security**
- **CCSSO hosts webinar on ELA instructional strategies transition to Common Core for all**

teachers

- **Teaching Channel video explains key features and differences of the Common Core Math Standards**
- **Education Commission of the States (ECS) launches website on Common Core**
- **Local Common Core News**
- **Past and upcoming events**

Council on Foreign Relations issues report on U.S. education reform and national security

Last month, an independent task force of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) issued a report titled “U.S. Education Reform and National Security”, which found that the United States' failure to educate its students leaves them unprepared to compete and threatens the country's ability to thrive in a global economy and maintain its leadership role. In the report, the task force proposed three policy recommendations:

- Implement educational expectations and assessments in subjects vital to protecting national security, including expanding the Common Core State Standards.
- Make structural changes to provide students with good choices.
- Launch a “national security readiness audit” to hold schools and policymakers accountable for results and raise public awareness.

To read the full report, [download a free copy online from CFR's website](#).

CCSSO hosts webinar series on transitioning to Common Core instruction

CCSSO is hosting several online professional development sessions designed to provide critical information for teachers and local administrators about planning for instruction under the Common Core Standards. The goal of the series of one hour live webinar sessions is to increase educator knowledge of the Common Core Standards in English language arts and Mathematics. Each of the PD sessions listed will be led by educators with deep knowledge of their subject and specific expertise in instructional strategies consistent with the Common Core Standards. The dates and topics of the live sessions are:

- April 10, 3:30 p.m. EDT: [Instructional strategies transition for special education teachers and all teachers in language arts](#)
Presenter: Lisa Campbell, English Language arts educator with special education and Professional development leader, Cincinnati
- April 12, 3:30 p.m. EDT: [Key content and instructional shifts in English Language Arts across grades 4-8 with Common Core Standards](#)
Presenters: David & Meredith Liben, Language arts educators and Common Core Professional development leaders, New Hampshire

CCSSO's Surveys of Enacted Curriculum (SEC) state collaborative is hosting these webinars.

Teaching Channel video explains key features of the Common Core Math Standards

The Teaching Channel has developed a [14-minute video about the key features and differences of the Common Core math standards](#). The video discusses the purpose of the standards for mathematical practice and how these should be integrated with the content; how teaching fewer topics in each grade changes planning; and, how the standards can help in closing the achievement gap. It is an easy-to-understand introduction that can be used to explain the new Math Common Core Standards to a general audience. The Teaching Channel has produced 90 videos on Common Core to date, and more are added to the site regularly.

Education Commission of the States (ECS) launches website on Common Core

The Education Commission of the States (ECS) has added a new Common Core section to its website to serve as a resource to states, policymakers, and the public on the implementation of the Common Core State Standards. ECS tracks state progress on the development and implementation of Common Core strategies and policies. In addition, ECS explores the critical issues states encounter as they move to full implementation. [Learn more about ECS' Core Commons webpage](#).

Local Common Core News

In communities across the country, word is getting out about the Common Core through local news outlets. These are great venues to inform parents, teachers, and businesses about the Common Core in your community, whether it is a newspaper article, opinion piece, or blog. This CCSSO newsletter will periodically highlight samples of these news items to help teachers, schools, districts, and state education agencies generate ideas of how to spread the word about Common Core in your community. State education agency staff may [contact Kate Dando](#), CCSSO communications director, for assistance with media outreach. If you have a piece you would like to share in an upcoming newsletter, please [email Katey McGettrick](#).

New Mexico

Clovis News Journal

March 28, 2012

[Education column: Teachers transition to common core state standards](#)

by Cindy Kleyn-Kennedy, instructional technology coordinator for the Clovis Municipal Schools

New York

GothamSchools

March 21, 2012

[In District 2, educators explain their approach to new standards](#)

by Rachel Cromidas

Ohio

Lancaster Eagle Gazette

March 18, 2012

Common Core setting a new education standard for Ohio

by Jessica Alaimo

Washington, D.C.

The Answer Sheet blog, washingtonpost.com

April 3, 2012

Common Core: Nobody said it was going to be easy

Guest post by Stephanie Day, 2010 Washington, D.C. Teacher of the Year

Past and Upcoming Events

- On March, Schools Moving Up hosted the webinar "[Designing Quality Units Aligned to the ELA Common Core State Standards](#)". Kathy Glass, President of Glass Educational Consulting, presented 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.
- On April 2, ASCD hosted the webinar "Common Core: Assessment Shifts". Participants learned about the kinds of formative and summative classroom assessments that best coordinate with the new generation of testing consortia for the Common Core. Participants took a close look at the SBAC and PARCC assessments and learned how to create classroom assessments that form a balanced system which supports student learning and aligns to the Common Core Standards. [The recording and materials will be posted to the ASCD webinar archives.](#)
- April 11, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. EDT: CCSSO Webinar ([Open to state education agency staff only](#)): K-12 Open Educational Resources and the Common Core State Standards: An Intellectual Property Briefing for Lawyers and State Education Leaders. [Please RSVP to Ashley Gardiner.](#)
- April 12, 1:00 p.m. EDT: "The Principal's Role in Implementing Common Core State Standards at the Secondary School Level". The Alliance for Excellent Education and the National Association of Secondary School Principals are hosting a webinar to discuss what kinds of preparation principals must undertake to ensure that their students will be prepared to master these new college- and career-ready standards and to demonstrate that mastery on the new assessments they will take in School Year 2014-15. [Register and submit questions for the webinar.](#) If you are unable to watch the webinar live, [an archived version will be available online](#) usually one or two days after the event airs. Please direct questions concerning the webinar to alliance@all4ed.org.
- April 17, 3:00 p.m. EDT: ASCD webinar "[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.

- April 26, 1:30 p.m. EDT: Schools Moving Up Webinar "[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.
- May 2, 3:00 p.m. EDT: ASCD webinar "[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.