



Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS)

Issue 18 • April 16, 2012

Dear colleagues,

This week, 25 states will meet in Atlanta, Georgia, as part of the Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS) state collaborative meeting series. The meeting will focus on preparing and supporting educators and administrators to transform student learning. For those attending, the final agenda and related resources for our upcoming meeting on April 18-20 are available on CCSSO's collaborative site, spaces.ccsso.org (password protected).

On April 30 at 2 p.m. EST, CCSSO will host a webinar on the Common Core mathematics. Our presenters are Bill McCallum and Ellen Whitesides, advisors for the Math SCASS. Dr. McCallum was also a lead writer of the math standards. The webinar will include a presentation on the concept of focus in the Math standards, the work of the Math SCASS, and information on the Illustrative Mathematics Project. [Registration for this webinar is open to all.](#)

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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Spotlight on Rhode Island Common Core Resources

The Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (RIDE) "Ready, Set, Go Common Core" initiative provides information on the transition to the Common Core State Standards for all Rhode Island educators and educational stakeholders, including parents and students. The name of the initiative is also a quick way the state explains its transition to the new standards:

- **Ready:** In the 2011-2012 school year, educators should be preparing for the transition to the Common Core State Standards in mathematics, reading, and writing. This includes participating in the Study of the Standards and Intensive Curriculum Alignment.
- **Set:** In the 2012-2013 school year, educators should be engaging in the transition to the Common Core State Standards. This includes aligning curriculum, instruction, and assessment to the CCSS.
- **Go:** By the 2013-2014 school year, all K-12 public schools in the state of Rhode Island should have fully implemented the Common Core State Standards. This includes readying students for the new state assessment to be administered in the 2014-2015 school year: PARCC, or the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers.

[RIDE's Common Core website](#) has resources for educators, higher education, parents, and the community. RIDE provides a quarterly update, a quick guide to the resources it develops, and manages an RSS feed. In addition, RIDE has [established a Facebook page for the initiative](#).

Revised ELA publishers' criteria available

This month, the lead ELA standards writers and authors of the ELA publishers' criteria David Coleman and Sue Pimentel posted revised criteria to achievethecore.org. These documents provide criteria for publishers and curriculum developers as they work to ensure alignment of materials in grades K-2 and 3-12 with the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and literacy for history/social studies, science, and technical subjects. The criteria can be found on the ["Steal These Tools" section of the site](#), near the bottom of the page. State education agency staff may also find them on our state collaborative site, spaces.ccsso.org (password protected).

Common Core State Standards Identifiers

CCSSO and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center), working closely with the standards authors, aim to put forward a viable approach for publishing identifiers and XML designation to represent the standards. [There are currently three sets of canonical identifiers for individual standards available for public comment on \[corestandards.org\]\(http://corestandards.org\)](#), including dot notation, de-referenceable URIs, and globally unique identifiers. Before these are made official, individuals and/or organizations are encouraged to submit comments through www.corestandards.org no later than **Friday, April 27, 2012**, with any specific or general comments. Please do know that the approach to publish the three sets of identifiers is not up for public comment. Please contact [Maureen Wentworth](#) with questions.

Stanford University Launches Understanding Language Initiative

On April 11, 2012, Stanford University launched [Understanding Language](#), an initiative to develop awareness about the role of language in understanding and displaying knowledge of academic content. This initiative seeks to improve academic outcomes for all students, especially for English language learners, through better instructional practice and necessary policy supports at the state and local levels.

The first step of the initiative is to conduct an in-depth analysis of the language demands and opportunities contained in the Common Core State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards. The initiative is chaired by Dr. Kenji Hakuta of Stanford University, and CCSSO is a founding partner, along with the Oakland Unified School District, New York City Department of Education, National Council of La Raza, and Council for the Great City Schools.

ExxonMobil releases advertisement promoting the Common Core

As part of ExxonMobil's Let's Solve This Campaign, it has released an advertisement promoting the Common Core. [In a statement on its website, ExxonMobil states:](#)

"The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy. The Common Core State Standards are anchored by requirements for college and career success, providing a more accurate and rigorous description of academic readiness." [Watch the advertisement.](#)

ETS K-12 Center publishes updated guide to the assessment consortia

[The ETS K-12 Center's guide to the assessment consortia](#) provides summaries of the work of the five consortia. The guide's summaries have been approved by each consortium, and include information on their designs and progress, to help educators stay on top of the consortia's work. The ETS K-12 Center welcomes people to reprint the guide, share it with others, and/or post a copy on your website.

Upcoming events

- 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.
- 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.