



Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS)

Issue 19 • May 1, 2012

Dear colleagues,

Last month, 27 states met in Atlanta, Georgia, as part of the Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS) state collaborative meeting series. The meeting focused on preparing and supporting educators and administrators to transform student learning. The meeting opened with keynote speaker Sarah Brown Wessling, the 2010 National Teacher of the Year. As part of her remarks, Wessling [shared a video of her facilitating a literary discussion in her classroom](#), which is available through the Teaching Channel – it is a vibrant demonstration of the Common Core coming to life in the classroom.

Yesterday, CCSSO hosted a webinar on the Mathematics Common Core State Standards and the concept of focus. Ellen Whitesides, director of the Common Core State Standards Mathematics Project at the University of Arizona and advisor to the CCSSO Math SCASS, explained the importance of focus in understanding the Math standards. Whitesides answered participant questions about the standards and shared Common Core math resources such as:

- [The Illustrative Mathematics Project](#);
- [Frequently Asked Questions from her fellow Math SCASS advisor Bill McCallum](#); and
- [Progressions documents developed by the Institute for Mathematics and Education at the University of Arizona](#).

[A recording and the associated materials are available through our website.](#)

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:

- CCSSO announces new English Language Learners (ELL) SCASS advisor: Kenji Hakuta
- Smarter Balanced and PARCC Consortia issue guidance for new instructional technology purchases
- Oregon develops toolkit for early childhood community
- Local Common Core news
- National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Consortium seeks input on Common State Standards for CTE
- Upcoming events

CCSSO announces new English Language Learners (ELL) SCASS advisor: Kenji Hakuta

CCSSO's State Collaboratives on Assessment and Student Standards (SCASS) system has brought onboard Kenji Hakuta, professor at Stanford University, as the lead advisor to the [ELL SCASS](#). Hakuta also serves as co-chair of the [Understanding Language project](#), which aims to heighten educator awareness of the critical role that language plays in the new Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards. For questions about the SCASS System, please contact [Joe Crawford](#) or [Dom Blanc](#).

Smarter Balanced and PARCC Consortia issue guidance for new instructional technology purchases

At the end of April, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced) and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) issued guidance designed to inform schools and districts as they make annual instructional technology purchases. The guidelines include hardware and operating system specifications covering the vast majority of commercially available computers and tablets. The full guidelines are available online:

- [Smarter Balanced New Hardware Purchasing Guidelines](#)
- [Technology Guidance for PARCC Assessments](#)

Oregon develops toolkit for early childhood community

Looking for a way to increase awareness about the Common Core in your state's early childhood community? Consider developing [a toolkit like Oregon's](#) for your state as a first step in informing early childhood educators about the standards. The Oregon toolkit provides simple steps an early childhood educator can take to learn more about the standards and their connection to early childhood education. The toolkit includes links to Teaching Channel videos about the Common Core, a one-page brochure developed by the Oregon Department of Education, and information about how the standards connect to existing early childhood education resources.

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 periodically highlights 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](#).

Colorado

9news.com, NBC Denver Affiliate

April 16, 2012

[Education Nation: Common Core Standards change classrooms](#)

by Nelson Garcia

Louisiana

Bastrop Daily Enterprise

April 20, 2012

[New academic curriculum for students on the horizon](#)

By Vicki Adams

New York

Examiner.com

April 17, 2012

[Learning to love reading: NY Common Core engages students in books](#)

by Gillian Burdett

Utah

The Salt Lake Tribune

April 29, 2012

[Editorial: Common Core – Program is no fed conspiracy](#)

The Salt Lake Tribune Editorial Board

National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Consortium seeks input on Common State Standards for CTE

In 2011, state leaders from across the nation united to spearhead an initiative to develop a [Common Career Technical Core \(CCTC\)](#), a set of shared state standards for Career Technical Education (CTE) to help ensure all CTE students have access to high-quality, rigorous career-focused learning opportunities in every state, and every community across the nation. The CCTC initiative is being facilitated by the [National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Consortium \(NASDCTEc\)](#).

All CTE stakeholders, including educators, administrators, and industry are invited to provide input online using the [CCTC public comment web page](#). The public comment period will run from April 30 – May 11, 2012. Once the public comment period ends on May 11, 2012, the state-nominated working groups will review the public feedback and incorporate changes to the draft standards. The final standards are slated for public release at the [National Career Clusters™ Institute](#) on June 19, 2012.

For more information, [contact Dean Folkers, Deputy Executive Director, NASDCTEc.](#)

Upcoming Events

- May 2, 3:00 p.m. ET: 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.
- May 8, 10:30 am ET: School Improvement Network webinar "[Mapping to the Core: Planning for Curriculum Success](#)" presented by Dr. Heidi Hayes Jacobs. Dr. Jacobs's "Mapping to the Core" Webinar presents step-by-step theory and instruction that guides teachers and administrators through the process of creating a curriculum map aligned to the Common Core Standards.
- May 9, 3 p.m. ET: ASCD Webinar "[Transitioning to the Common Core State Standards: Making Your Efforts Effective Through a Focus on Text Complexity Demands](#)". Learn about the various aspects of text complexity: how it is defined by the standards, as well as a range of measurement tools—including some newly developed and tested by the Race to the Text project—and how to use the tools for professional development.
- May 15, 3 p.m. ET: ASCD Webinar "[The Principal's Role in Bringing the Common Core State Standards to Routine Use: Essential Levers for Change](#)". Learn about the role of the principal in using key levers for change to make the Common Core State Standards routine throughout the school.

May 23, 3 p.m. ET: ASCD Webinar "[Meeting Standards by Design: Embedding Standards in the UbD™ Framework for Curriculum, Assessment, and Learning](#)". Join this webinar providing practical strategies to ensure that the Common Core State Standards are validly addressed in an engaging, effective, and robust curriculum.