



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

**Issue 23 • June 26, 2012**

Dear colleagues,

As you may have heard, CCSSO's executive director Gene Wilhoit [announced he will retire](#). The CCSSO board of directors has begun a national search for a successor and Gene plans to remain at CCSSO until a new executive director assumes the post. Under Gene's leadership, states have increasingly worked together to address critical issues including higher standards for students, richer assessments of their learning, better tools for teachers, and more accountability for schools to produce results. While Gene will return to his home and family in Kentucky, he plans to remain involved in the work to ensure states have the support they need to advance the transformative work they have begun. We wish Gene all the best as he begins this next chapter in his life!

Also, this month marks the two-year anniversary of the Common Core, and now, with 46 states in the process of implementing the standards, the focus is reflecting the content in curricula and classroom. On June 22, Gene Wilhoit [penned an op-ed for Education Week](#) addressing the issue of CCSS implementation in which he reiterates that the standards are not a silver bullet for fixing our education system, but by tearing down siloes, enhancing collaboration, and improving leadership, states are leading the way toward improving education.

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:**

- **Urban school leaders unite to push for higher quality resources for teachers and students**
- **Spotlight on West Virginia's Teach 21 website**

- **Registration now available for July 10 CCSSO webinar on 1% assessment consortia**
- **Student Achievement Partners to release 4 professional development modules at July 11 webinar hosted by CCSSO**
- **Common Standards released for career and technical education**
- **CCSSO announces new state coach for Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS) Program**
- **Past and Upcoming Events**

### **Urban school leaders unite to push for higher quality resources for teachers and students**

This Thursday in New York City, urban school leaders from more than 20 big-city school districts, including New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago, will announce their support to a [set of Publishers' Criteria instructional principles](#) based on the Common Core State Standards, rejecting instructional materials that do not meet higher standards.

Urban school districts spend about \$2.4-billion annually on instructional materials, such as textbooks, online and other resources. The event is sponsored by the Council of the Great City Schools, a coalition of the nation's urban public school systems, and the New York City Department of Education, the largest public school district in the country.

The Publishers' Criteria were written by [Student Achievement Partners](#), a nonprofit founded by three of the contributing authors of the Common Core State Standards that assembles educators and researchers to design actions based on evidence to improve student achievement. The Publishers' Criteria documents are also supported by CCSSO, the National Governors Association, Achieve, the Council of the Great City Schools, and the National Association of State Boards of Education. For more information, [please contact Henry Duvall](#), Council of the Great City Schools.

### **Spotlight on West Virginia's Teach 21 website**

[West Virginia's Teach 21 website](#) contains educator-developed resources aligned to the Common Core State Standards, which the state calls Content Standards and Objectives (CSOs), and the state's other standards. The website contains interactive digital resources, including interactive CSOs, Next Generations CSOs for ELA and mathematics, strategy bank, and instructional guides aligned to the Common Core. Since the state implemented the kindergarten standards in the 2011-2012 school year, the Teach 21 website includes many rich lessons and resources developed by teachers on the kindergarten ELA and math standards.

### **Registration now available for July 10 CCSSO webinar on 1% assessment consortia**

On July 10 at 2 p.m. ET, CCSSO will host a webinar to provide an overview of the two assessment consortia funded to design assessment systems aligned to the Common Core for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, Dynamic Learning Maps and the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) Partnership. These new alternate are expected to fit cohesively within the comprehensive assessment systems under development by the Partnership for Assessment Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced). Both DLM and NCSC are to be ready

for use by the 2014-15 school year, the same year in which the comprehensive assessment systems will be operational. Rachel Quenemoen, NCSC, and Neal Kingston, DLM, will discuss similarities and differences between the consortia and how their work connects to the Common Core, followed by Q&A with the audience. [Register for this webinar.](#)

### **Student Achievement Partners to release 4 CCSS professional development modules at July 11 webinar hosted by CCSSO**

On July 11, at 2 p.m. ET, CCSSO will host a webinar to mark the release of four professional development modules designed to support district and school leadership in their transition to the Common Core. The modules are designed to be incorporated into summer professional development sessions or during back to school planning. Sandra Alberti, Director of State/District Partnerships and Professional Development for Student Achievement Partners, will introduce the modules and talk about how to incorporate them into your professional development plans. The four modules cover the following topics: the Common Core Shifts in Math, the Common Core Shifts in ELA/Literacy, Creating Text Dependent Questions in ELA/Literacy, and Instructional Leadership in the context of the Common Core. [Register for this webinar.](#)

### **Common Standards released for career and technical education**

Last week, the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium released the [Common Career Technical Core \(CCTC\) standards](#). CCTC is a state-led initiative to establish a set of rigorous, high-quality standards for Career Technical Education (CTE) that states can adopt voluntarily. The standards have been informed by state and industry standards and developed by a diverse group of teachers, business and industry experts, administrators and researchers. Forty-two states the District of Columbia and Palau participated in the development stage of the CCTC. The CCTC includes a set of standards for each of the 16 Career Clusters™ and their corresponding Career Pathways that define what students should know and be able to do after completing instruction in a program of study. The CCTC also includes an overarching set of Career Ready Practices that apply to all programs of study. The Career Ready Practices include 12 statements that address the knowledge, skills and dispositions that are important to becoming career ready.

### **CCSSO announces new state coach for Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS)Program**

CCSSO is pleased to announce that Judy Jeffrey will work with the Council as a senior consultant coach to support five states with implementation efforts as part of the Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS) program. Jeffrey previously served as the Director of the Iowa Department of Education until 2010. Prior to serving as chief, Jeffrey was an elementary teacher and a district assistant superintendent.

### **Past and Upcoming Events**

- June 12, 2012: America's Promise Alliance and Association of Career and Technical Education hosted a webinar on Missouri's integration of the Common Core State Standards & career and technical education. [Download recording and associated materials.](#)
- [National High School Center College and Career Readiness Webinar Series:](#)
  - June 5, 2012: The Complexity of College and Career Readiness
  - June 12, 2012: College and Career Readiness and Linked Learning

- June 19, 2012: College and Career Readiness and Students with Disabilities
- June 26, 2012: Aligning Resources, Structures and Supports for Actualizing College and Career Readiness
- July 11, 2012, 2 p.m. ET: [Education Week Webinar: Revealing how education leaders can work together on common standards implementation.](#) Principals have a pivotal role to play in turning the common standards into good curriculum and instruction in their schools. They must learn about the new standards so they can oversee and guide teaching and help teachers assemble the right mix of instructional materials. They must know how to monitor teaching and learning and coordinate many other aspects of school life that will be affected by the common core. Join *Ed Week* to learn what resources are available to guide principals and district leaders as they embrace this important role. An archived version of the event will be available within 24 hours after the original presentation.