



Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS)

Issue 24 • July 13, 2012

Dear colleagues,

This week, Student Achievement Partners, a nonprofit founded by three of the contributing authors to the Common Core that develops tools for effective standards implementation, [released four professional development modules](#) designed to support district and school leadership in their transition to the Common Core. The four modules cover: 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.

The modules are intended be shared widely for use directly by individual educators, in professional learning communities, or for preparing to lead the professional development in a school or district setting. The time required for each module can be customized by expanding the amount of time spent on the activities and in discussion.

Each module contains a facilitator's guide, PowerPoint presentations with thorough notes, hands-on activities, related readings and research, recommended topics for discussion, and web and video resources. Refer to the Facilitator's Guide for specific instructions on how to use each part of the module.

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:

- **Spotlight on New York state: Common Core sample questions explain instructional shifts**
- **National survey shows strong support for Common Core State Standards**
- **Recording now available for July 10 CCSSO webinar on 1% assessment consortia**

- **Recordings of CCSSO webinar series on Common Core now available**

Spotlight on New York state: Common Core sample questions explain instructional shifts

The New York State Education Department has [developed a teaching tool for educators](#) in the form of a series of sample questions that demonstrate the instructional shifts in the ELA and math Common Core Standards. These samples are also a good resource to aid students and parents in understanding what the new standards will look like in the classroom. The sample questions are available for grades three through eight in both subjects. For each grade level and subject, there are approximately 12 questions, which include multiple choice, short constructed response, and extended constructed response. Read a more detailed overview of this resource and download the samples through NYSED's website.

National survey shows strong support for Common Core State Standards

[A new national poll released by Achieve](#) - Growing Awareness, Growing Support: Teacher and Voter Understanding of the Common Core State Standards & Assessments - shows teachers are increasingly knowledgeable about the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and that they like what they see. Some of the key findings from the nationwide survey include:

- Voters and teachers strongly support common standards and assessments. Voter support remains strong regardless of age, education level, race, ethnicity, or party affiliation.
- There has been a significant increase in awareness of the Common Core State Standards among teachers since August 2011, while awareness of the CCSS continues to be very low among voters.
- The more teachers know about the CCSS, the more positive impression they have of the standards. Similarly, voters who are aware of the Common Core hold a net favorable view of the standards.
- A majority of both voters and teachers support the CCSS assessments and support holds when more information on the assessments is provided.
- However, there are mixed reactions to some specific components of the new assessments, although voters and teachers are fairly consistent in their views on the highest and lowest rated assessment components.

Recording now available for July 10 CCSSO webinar on 1% assessment consortia

On July 10, CCSSO hosted 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 (DLM) and the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) Partnership. These new alternate assessments 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) discussed similarities and differences between the consortia and how their work connects to the Common Core, which was followed by Q&A with the audience. [Listen to a recording and download the presentations.](#)

Recordings of CCSSO webinar series on Common Core now available

In March and April, CCSSO hosted a series of webinars on the Common Core, with the support of the Kansas Enhanced Assessment Grant (EAG) State Consortium project. Recordings and the associated materials for the five webinars are now available on CCSSO's website and covered the following topics:

- [The Use of the Surveys of Enacted Curriculum \(SEC\) Data and Transition to the Common Core](#)
- [Common Core State Standards for Mathematics: Shifts and Implications for Instruction](#)
- [Language Arts Instructional Strategies for Special Education Teachers and All Teachers](#)
- [The Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts: Shifts and Implications for ELA Instruction](#)
- [Transition to the CCSS for Teachers of Student with Significant Cognitive Disabilities" Aligning Instruction to Standards](#)

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](#).

California

Santa Maria Times

July 10, 2012

[School districts gear up for changes in state standards](#)

By John Sakata

Indiana

Tribune-Star

July 5, 2012

[Common Core standards good for Indiana students](#)

By Zach Foughty

North Carolina

Salisbury Post

July 10, 2012

[Kannapolis teachers working during summer to address new state standards](#)

By Sarah Campbell

Wisconsin

WUWM News

July 9, 2012

[MPS Summer Program Aims to Ready Students for Tougher Standards](#)

By Ann-Elise Henzl