



**Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS)
Issue 25 • August 8, 2012**

Dear colleagues,

Next week, 27 states and American Samoa will meet in Seattle for the next Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS) state collaborative meeting. Participants will focus on building the capacity of state agencies to support classroom level implementation of the Common Core State Standards and preparation for common assessments. If you have any questions about the meeting or would like to see an agenda, please [contact Katey McGettrick](#). We look forward to sharing key outcomes and resources that emerge from the meeting in our next newsletter.

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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PARCC seeks public comment on draft policies and descriptors

K-8 Publishers' Criteria for Common Core Math Standards now available

This document, developed by the lead authors of the CCSS for Mathematics and endorsed by CCSSO, NGA, Achieve, the National Association of State Boards of Education, and the Council of Great City Schools, aims to support faithful implementation of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics by [providing criteria for aligned materials](#). Based on the two major evidence-based design principles of the CCSSM, focus and coherence, the document intends to guide the work of publishers and curriculum developers, as well as states and school districts, as they design, evaluate, and select materials or revise existing materials. For those attending the ICCS meeting in Seattle next week, please note that there will be a breakout session on the Publishers' Criteria on Thursday, August 16th led by Amy Briggs, Student Achievement Partners' Chief Operating Officer.

Spotlight on Kentucky: Common Core Employer Information Kit

The Kentucky Chamber Foundation, in partnership with the state Department of Education, is working to raise employer awareness of and support for the Common Core State Standards and the positive impact they will have on preparing students for success in both college and the workplace. [The kit offers communications tools that Kentucky employers can use](#) to let their employees know about the new standards and what they mean for their communities and state. The kit includes such items FAQs, a sample newsletter item, an example of an e-mail message and resource information. The foundation has also produced [an informational brochure titled "New Standards, New Tests, New Scores"](#) that is available online.

Spotlight on Ohio: Common Core video

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has produced a four-minute video on the Common Core State Standards and assessments that they would like to share with all states and their school districts to explain the standards to teachers, parents and a variety of stakeholders.

The department is offering the video, *Clearer and Higher: Why Students Need the Common Core*, under the Creative Commons license so states wishing to use the video may add state-specific information. The video can be used in a variety of settings, such as an opener for education-leader speaking engagements and for showing at district- and school-level faculty meetings, parent nights, and association and community events. The video is available for [download from the department's website in two different formats \(MP4 and WMV\)](#). It is also available on the [ODE YouTube site](#).

ASCD Article: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education focusing on technical assistance

A July 2012 article posted to ASCD's Core Connections highlights Missouri's efforts to develop close working relationships with districts. A local school district, in conjunction with the department, developed a professional development series around the Common Core State Standards, with the focus on ELA at the elementary level and math and ELA at the high school level. The work that they developed has been modified as needed for a statewide audience and is being delivered through a series of train-the-trainer events. [Read the full article](#).

Learning Forward releases brief on professional learning and standards implementation

Learning Forward released *Meet the Promise of Content Standards: Professional Learning Required*, an informative brief on the critical role that professional learning plays in implementing content standards. Outlining a vision for educators supported through high-quality professional learning, the brief describes elements of effective professional learning as well as recommendations for action for educators at the federal, state, system, school, and individual level. [Read the brief \(PDF\)](#). Learning Forward staff will also be available at the upcoming ICCS meeting to assist states in developing professional learning plans.

New Common Core tool to track quality of Common Core implementation

Achieve, Education First and EDI developed a [Common Core Survey Tool](#) to help state and district leaders track the quality of implementation of the new standards. The survey item bank includes survey questions tailored to teachers and school leaders. State leaders can use the item bank as a base for creating customized surveys. The survey tool includes a guidance document that explains the context of the tool, methods for customization and use, and suggestions for how to use the data to make mid-course corrections. EDi staff will also be available at the upcoming ICCS meeting to assist states in developing metrics for success.

Council of Great City Schools releases Common Core parent guides

The Council of Great City Schools has released new Common Core parent roadmaps to provide guidance to parents on what their child will be learning and how they can support that learning. The roadmaps are available for both ELA and mathematics for kindergarten through fifth grade and can be found on [the CGCS website](#). Additional parent guides for additional grade levels and in additional languages will be added in the coming weeks.

Military Child Education Coalition releases Common Core Pamphlet

This [pamphlet](#), developed by the Military Child Education Coalition, provides background on the standards, explains why the Common Core is important to military-connected students, and discusses the new assessments that will accompany the new standards. It also includes four perspectives on the value of the Common Core – a student, a parent, an administrator, and a teacher. Please [contact Stayce Parry](#) at the Coalition for more information.

PARCC seeks public comment on draft policies and descriptors

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is seeking public feedback on two draft policies related to its next generation assessment system: the PARCC policy for making college-ready determinations in English language arts/literacy and mathematics, and the draft policy-level performance level descriptors (PLDs) and general content-level PLDs for the PARCC assessments. The deadline for comments is September 21, 2012. [Review the draft policies and provide feedback through PARCC's website.](#)