



Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS)

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Dear colleagues,

As our current ICCS program year comes to a close this month, we would like to remind states that enrollment is currently open for the 2012-13 ICCS program year. Next year's program offers state Common Core implementation teams access to coaching and mentorship from former state leaders, access to an online network to share resources with all states, attendance at an annual summit as a cross-agency team, attendance at a series of focused topical meetings, and input into CCSSO's ongoing webinar series and tool development to support Common Core implementation. ICCS is open to all states. [The enrollment form for 2012-2013](#) includes more information about meeting dates and topics, and pricing. CCSSO asks that states complete enrollment forms by October 1st, 2012.

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 Arizona: Arizona launches new Common Core website

Earlier this month, The Arizona Public Engagement Task Force, joined by the state's governor and superintendent for instruction, announced the launch of ArizonaCommonCore.org, a tool for Arizona educators, families and business leaders to learn more about Arizona's Common Core Standards. The Arizona Public Engagement Task Force was convened as an independently formed collaboration of more than 30 partners, representing education statewide from cradle to career. The Task Force was created to build public awareness and engagement regarding key issues impacting education in the state, starting with Common Core.

As a part of ArizonaCommonCore.org, the Task Force also announced the launch of the Arizona Common Core Standards Communications Toolkit. The Toolkit provides superintendents, principals, teachers, parent liaisons, and other community leaders with resources to let parents and the public know about the new Standards. Items in the Toolkit include: an overview of the Standards, an elevator speech, talking points, key messages for target groups, a template letter for educators to send to parents, and a PowerPoint presentation for families, among other resources. [Read the full press release](#) announcing the website launch.

Spotlight on Florida: Florida teacher preparation programs commit to system-wide Common Core implementation

Last month, the Florida College System announced that their teacher educator programs are the first in the nation to voluntarily commit to a system-wide implementation of the Common Core State Standards. The new standards will be embedded in the teacher preparation program curriculum throughout the college system so new teachers who enter the classroom will be ready for the more rigorous standards. Faculty members will have the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the Common Core State Standards through lesson demonstrations and implementation planning sessions at specialized training this fall dedicated to higher education faculty. The Florida College System has stated that will also make its "Common Core Training Institute" curriculum available to other states interested in following Florida's lead. [Read the full press release](#) regarding this announcement.

New 50-State Report From Achieve Details States' Commitment to College and Career Readiness

Today, Achieve released its seventh annual ["Closing the Expectations Gap" report](#), which surveys all 50 states

and the District of Columbia on whether they have adopted standards, graduation requirements, assessments and accountability systems aligned to the expectations of two- and four-year colleges and employers. For the first time, the report details not only states' policy progress on the college- and career-ready agenda but also their efforts to implement those policies. The key findings regarding standards and assessments include:

- All 50 states and the District of Columbia have adopted standards aligned to the expectations of college and careers. 46 states and DC have adopted the Common Core State Standards, while four have state-developed CCR standards; and
- 18 states administer college- and career-ready high school assessments capable of producing a readiness score that postsecondary institutions use to make placement decisions. It is expected that 44 states and the District of Columbia participating in one or both Race to the Top assessment consortia will meet this criteria when the next generation assessments are administered for the first time in 2014-2015.

[Read the press release and download the full report on Achieve's website.](#)

Save the date: November meeting for states on selecting and recommending instructional materials

Registration will open later this week for a state meeting on November 29-30, 2012 in Stamford, CT, on selecting and recommending Common Core aligned instructional materials. This meeting is being hosted by CCSSO in partnership with the GE Foundation and Student Achievement Partners. Through the generosity of the GE Foundation, this meeting will be free to two participants from every state education agency in the country to participate, regardless of membership in ICCS or other consortia. Please let [Margaret Millar](#) know as soon as possible if your state is planning to take advantage of this opportunity and which two participants should receive registration. CCSSO asks that states send leaders from within the agency that will be able to make decisions for future action based on the cross-state discussions that take place at the meeting.

Supplemental Research to Appendix A of Common Core State Standards regarding text complexity published

As a result of new research on the quantitative dimensions of text complexity published since the standards' release, [a supplement to Appendix A of the Common Core Standards](#) has been developed by CCSSO and NGA and posted to www.corestandards.org. This research expands upon the three-part text complexity model outlined in Appendix A of the CCSS in ELA/Literacy that blends quantitative and qualitative measures of text complexity with reader and task considerations. It contains an update chart of text complexity grade bands and associated ranges for six quantitative computer programs that measure text complexity. It also presents new field-tested tools for helping educators assess the qualitative features of text complexity. You may also [access the supporting research and other resources on text complexity on Student Achievement Partners'](#)

[website](#).

Webinar: Think Tank for Embedding Secondary Transition Skills in the Common Core State Standards

The National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC) will be leading the webinar "Think Tank for Embedding Secondary Transition Skills in the Common Core State Standards" on Tuesday, September 18th from 3-4:30 P.M. (Eastern). NSTTAC is a national technical assistance and dissemination center funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs, and it focuses on improved academic and functional achievement for students with disabilities. This webinar will briefly overview the Common Core State Standards adoption and introduce ideas for embedding transition-focused skills, such as self-determination and career development activities, into Common Core State Standards instruction. This will be an interactive session, requesting participants' assistance as NSTTAC continues to develop resources for state and local practitioners on this topic. You do not need to register - but login to <http://tadnet.adobeconnect.com/nsttac/> to access the webinar and be connected by phone once logged in, or dial 1-800-201-2375 and Participant Code 611914.