



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

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Dear colleagues,

A broad coalition of national education, business, philanthropic and policy groups, including CCSSO, has come together to create a clear, unified and focused vision for what it means to be career ready. The broad coalition known as the Career Readiness Partner Coalition, issued a statement on October 18, "Building Blocks For Change: What it Means to be Career Ready," making clear that career readiness is a process of connecting "education and employment to achieve a fulfilling, financially-secure and successful career."

CCSSO Executive Director Gene Wilhoit said of the career readiness document: "The Common Core State Standards (Common Core) articulate what students need to know and be able to do in English language arts/literacy and mathematics for success in college and careers. The college readiness benchmarks are the same as the career readiness benchmarks in the Common Core State Standards. The Career Readiness Partner Council's statement contributes to the national dialogue on career readiness by affirming that career readiness includes the Common Core State Standards while painting the broader picture of the range of knowledge, skills, and dispositions that students must exhibit beyond literacy and mathematics. Implementation of the Common Core State Standards will be strengthened in schools, districts, and states by looking at the Common Core in the context of the career."

For information on the Career Readiness Partnership Council and the unified vision on career readiness, please visit [www.careerreadynow.org](http://www.careerreadynow.org).

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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- U.S. territory American Samoa adopts the Common Core
- CCSSO among partners with University of Kansas on \$24.5m grant on inclusive schoolwide reform
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**U.S. territory American Samoa adopts the Common Core**

CCSSO is pleased to announce that on October 5, 2012, Governor Togiola T.A. Tulafono [signed an executive order adopting the Common Core State Standards](#). American Samoa joins three other U.S. territories as adopters of the standards: Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Representatives from the American Samoa Department of Education attended the August ICCS meeting to learn about the supports CCSSO provides on Common Core implementation and will be working with one of our coaches as they move forward with their work.

**CCSSO among partners with University of Kansas on \$24.5M grant on inclusive schoolwide reform**

Researchers at the University of Kansas have been [awarded a five-year, \\$24.5 million grant](#) to develop a national center to assist schools across the country to implement KU's successful model for educating general and special education students together and improve schoolwide academic outcomes. The award from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs will establish [the SWIFT Center \(School-wide Integrated Framework for Transformation\)](#) to provide intensive, on-site technical assistance in new ways to schools and districts in an effort to sustain the model and implement it in additional schools. Further, the project will assist state education agencies to implement statewide school reform. Partners with KU in the SWIFT Center include the University of Oregon, the University of New Hampshire, the University of North Carolina, the University of South Florida, Arizona State University, Louisiana Technical University, the Council of Chief State School

Officers, the National Association of State Directors of Special Education, TASH, the Institute for Educational Leadership, Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education, and Clickfarm Interactive for website design and management.

### **Alliance for Excellent Education hosting two October 30 events on Common Core, Next Generation Science Standards, and English Language Learners**

The transition to Common Core State Standards and Next-Generation Science Standards presents both opportunities and challenges for the growing number of English language learners. A number of initiatives are underway to help English learners access grade-level content while building their language proficiency. Stanford University launched a two-year initiative—*Understanding Language*—to look at the language demands contained in the new standards. The Council of Chief State School Officers recently developed the [\*Framework for English Language Proficiency Development Standards\*](#) to help states understand the sophisticated language competencies English language learners will need to perform in an academic area.

The Alliance will be hosting two events on October 30 to discuss these efforts and their respective accomplishments to date along with state and district actions needed to support English learners' language and content learning. There will be a briefing in the morning at 8:30 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill and a webinar in the afternoon at 1 p.m. Space at the briefing is limited – [please RSVP as requested in the briefing invitation](#). You may [register online for the webinar](#).

### **PARCC and Smarter Balanced Sample Items and Tasks Available Online**

[PARCC](#) and [Smarter Balanced](#) have both announced that they have sample assessment items and tasks available online, providing educators, parents, and students an initial look at the types of items that will appear on next-generation assessments. Both consortia emphasize that the sample items are intended to help teachers, administrators, and policymakers implement the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and prepare for next-generation assessments. The sample items and tasks help to shine a light on important elements of the CCSS and serve as a resource as educators are planning the shifts in instruction that will be required to help students meet the demands of the new assessments. The sample items are not intended to be used as practice tests and do not provide a comprehensive picture of what the new assessments will look like. Both consortia will continue to release items and tasks over time to represent the full range of assessment items and tasks that will eventually be included on the assessments. CCSSO is planning a webinar to highlight sample items and tasks from both consortia, with teachers discussing how they will use them to inform their instruction and will provide more information about this in the coming weeks. For more information and to view the sample items and prototypes, please visit the websites for [PARCC](#) and [Smarter Balanced](#).

### **Learning Forward issues new report on professional learning and Common Core**

## **implementation**

At the beginning of October, Learning Forward released *Meet the Promise of Content Standards: Investing in Professional Learning*, a brief that details the critical attributes of professional learning necessary to achieve the vision of Common Core standards, and addresses the need for long-term commitment and resource investments from the nation and each state to achieve that vision.

The brief explores the growing needs of educators with the advent of new standards and assessments, and calls attention to the urgent need for schools, districts, states, regional and national education agencies, and education vendors to change the allocation and application of professional learning resources. It also recommends new investments for states, districts, and school leaders to make in professional learning.

*Meet the Promise of Content Standards: Investing in Professional Learning* was published as part of Learning Forward's ongoing initiative, [Transforming Professional Learning to Prepare College- and Career-Ready Students: Implementing the Common Core](#), to develop a comprehensive system of professional learning that spans the distance from the statehouse to the classroom. The two-year initiative's focus is on providing tools and resources to states and school systems as they work to implement the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and new assessments. CCSSO's Common Core Implementation team and Educator Effectiveness team partner with Learning Forward to support states in transforming professional learning systems and are hosting a meeting together on November 1-2 for states on professional learning to increase principal effectiveness to implement the Common Core and educator evaluation systems.

## **Upcoming Events**

### CCSSO's English Language Proficiency/Development (ELPD) Framework Webinar Series

- October 11, 1 – 2 p.m. ET: Overview ([Recording now available](#))
- [October 25, 3 – 4 p.m. ET: Mathematics](#)
- [October 29, 3 – 4 p.m. ET: English Language Arts](#)
- [November 2, 1 – 2 p.m. ET: Science](#)

### K-8 Mathematics Publishers' Criteria Webinars

On October 22 at 3:30 p.m. ET, *state and district curriculum leaders, education policymakers, and teachers* are invited to participate in a webinar on the K-8 Publishers' Criteria for the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. [Register for this event](#).

Also, on October 23 at 3:30 p.m. ET, *publishers* are invited to participate in a webinar on the same topic. [Register for this event](#).

The Publishers' Criteria, released in July 2012, aim to support faithful CCSSM implementation by providing criteria for materials aligned to the Standards. Jason Zimba, a member of the CCSSM writing team and a co-developer of the Publishers' Criteria, and Beth Cocuzza, Director of Mathematics for Student Achievement Partners, will walk participants through the criteria and discuss the recommended uses of this highly anticipated document.

#### [CCSSO and ASCD to co-host November 7 webinar on EduCore™](#)

CCSSO and ASCD invite you to attend a webinar on Wednesday, November 7, at 2 p.m. ET to learn about ASCD's new, free digital tool [EduCore™](#) for educators implementing the Common Core State Standards in both mathematics and literacy. The EduCore tool is a repository of evidence-based strategies, videos, and supporting documents that help middle and high school educators transition to the Common Core State Standards. Through a simple registration process, educators can access additional EduCore features, such as the ability to save searches, organize tools, and annotate resources. In this webinar, ASCD's Sherida Britt will highlight secondary instructional resources on the EduCore™ platform and offer common sense tips that schools can use to create job-embedded opportunities that encourage teachers to use the instructional resources. By the end of this webinar, participants will:

- understand the features of the EduCore platform and other free online resources that feature research based support for implementing the Common Core; and
- determine ways schools can create job-embedded opportunities for professional learning communities.

[Register today for this event.](#)