



Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS)

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Dear colleagues,

Yesterday, we hosted a webinar on the recently released Partnership for Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) and Smarter Balanced sample assessment items in mathematics with middle school mathematics teacher Jim Mamer. Mamer received the 2012 Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics Elementary Mathematics Teaching Award, is an active leader in the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), and is currently implementing the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics with his students. Mamer offered his reactions and guidance to fellow teachers on what the new assessment items illustrate about the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics and accompanying assessments that students will be experiencing soon. [A recording of this webinar and the accompanying slides are available on our website.](#)

This webinar complements a November 2012 webinar on the ELA sample assessment items with 2012 National Teacher of the Year and 7th grade ELA teacher Rebecca Mieliwoki. A recording of the ELA webinar and accompanying slides are available [here](#).

Please do not hesitate to [contact us](#) 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:

- 25 states commit to advancing recommendations to improve educator preparation
- Student Achievement Partners publishes three new Common Core PD modules
- Stanford University Understanding Language Project publishes Common Core ELA unit exemplifying

effective strategies for ELLs

- Free illustrations show Common Core Mathematical Practices in action
- CBMS releases new report on preparation and professional development of Math educators in the context of the Common Core

25 states commit to advancing recommendations to improve educator preparation

CCSSO announced this week that 25 states have expressly committed to advance recommendations aimed at dramatically improving educator preparation and entry into the profession. The recommendations are outlined in a new CCSSO report, "[*Our Responsibility, Our Promise: Transforming Educator Preparation and Entry into the Profession*](#)". The report was developed collaboratively by state education chiefs to identify key areas they can change to ensure every teacher and principal are ready to prepare our students for college and careers from the day they enter the classroom. The report recommends states focus on three key policy levers to improve the way we prepare our educator workforce: licensure, program approval, and data collection, analysis and reporting.

Student Achievement Partners publishes three new Common Core PD modules

Student Achievement Partners, a nonprofit founded by three of the contributing authors to the Common Core that develops tools for effective standards implementation, has released three additional Common Core professional development modules designed to support district and school leadership in their transition to the Common Core. SAP initially released four modules in July 2012. 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. The new modules available are:

- ***Why the Common Core? How these Standards are Different:*** An overview of the background information necessary to understand why the Common Core State Standards were developed and how they are different from previous standards we have seen.
- ***Introduction to the Literacy Shifts in the Content Areas:*** An introduction to the key shifts required by the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy, specifically in the content areas (social studies, science, arts, etc.).
- ***Deep Dive into the Math Shifts:*** A deeper dive into the Math shifts for those familiar with the shifts required by the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics.

Please visit <http://www.achievethecore.org> to download the modules.

Stanford University Understanding Language Project publishes Common Core ELA unit

exemplifying effective strategies for ELLs

The Understanding Language Project at Stanford University has published an instructional unit aligned to the Common Core ELA that shows instructional approaches that are likely to help English language learners (ELLs) meet the Common Core ELA standards. The unit, *Persuasion Across Time and Space*, includes more than 230 pages of resources, complete with full student handouts. The lessons address potent literacy goals and build on students' background knowledge and linguistic resources. Built around a set of famous persuasive speeches, the unit supports students in reading a range of complex texts. The unit invites students to write and speak in a variety of ways and for different audiences and purposes. You may [download the full unit](#) from the Understanding Language website.

Free illustrations show Common Core Mathematical Practices in action

Implementing the Mathematical Practice Standards is a project of the Education Development Center to promote teacher learning about the mathematical practices, which are part of the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics. Educators may [browse a library of illustrations for all of the practices](#), each of which includes a mathematics task, student dialogue, teacher reflection questions, mathematical overview, and student materials. In addition to the collection of illustrations, the project is interested in identifying people who would like to participate in or lead associated professional development programs during the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years as part of the field testing for these materials. In the meantime, the website offers a protocol for using the illustrations on the website for professional learning.

CBMS releases new report on preparation and professional development of math educators in the context of the Common Core

The Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences has released a new report, *The Mathematical Education of Teachers II (MET II)*, which updates a 2001 report on the topic. The audience for the report includes all who teach mathematics to teachers—mathematicians, statisticians, and mathematics educators—and all who are responsible for the mathematical education of teachers—department chairs, educational administrators, and policymakers at the national, state, school district, and collegiate levels. The MET II report gives recommendations for teachers' preparation and professional development, devoting separate chapters to mathematics for teachers of elementary, middle, and high school grades. The associated web resources give sources of further information about mathematics in the Common Core and programs for teachers. [The MET II report may be downloaded for free from the CBMS website.](#)