



Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS)

Issue 34 • February 20, 2013

Dear colleagues,

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is excited to share some of the outstanding new resources developed by the Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS) to support educators with Common Core implementation. Today's newsletter features public service announcements, videos for parents and community members, professional development tools, and guides for parents recently released by CGCS, all of which are freely available to states, districts, and schools. CCSSO applauds the Council of the Great City Schools for their great work and encourages everyone to explore these resources to use locally.

CCSSO is also pleased to share an open letter in support of the Common Core State Standards signed by more than 70 of America's top business leaders and published this past week in the New York Times. We encourage you to share this letter with your local and state boards of education and members of your state's legislature to demonstrate the broad commitment of the business community to the standards.

Thank you,

Carrie Heath Phillips and Margaret Reed Millar

Featured in this newsletter:

- **Videos about the Common Core for Community Members in English and Spanish**
- **Professional Development Videos on ELA/Literacy and Mathematics**
- **Grade-by-Grade Parent Guides to the Common Core in English and Spanish**
- **America's Business Leaders Support the Common Core State Standards**

- **World Languages Instruction Supports Common Core Literacy**

Videos about the Common Core for Community Members in English and Spanish

The Council of the Great City Schools developed [two 30-second Public Service Announcements](#) (PSAs) to quickly tell the story of the Common Core State Standards to the public. The PSAs are available in both English and Spanish. The PSAs were recently released and have already been viewed by more than 10 million people in just two weeks.

In addition, CGCS also developed [two three-minute videos](#) (one in English and one in Spanish) that explain the Common Core in a slightly longer form. The three-minute videos explain how the Common Core will help students achieve at high levels and help them learn what they need to know to get to graduation and beyond. These videos work particularly well for presentations to community and parent groups.

Professional Development Videos on ELA/Literacy and Mathematics

The Council of the Great City Schools also released a 45-minute professional development video, [“From the Page to the Classroom: Implementing the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Literacy”](#) for central office and school-based staff and teachers on the shifts in the Common Core in English language arts and literacy. The video provides background on the Common Core and the three shifts inherent in the standards. The video features David Coleman, Lily Wong-Fillmore, and footage from a classroom showing how English language learner kindergarten students are engaged in reading and discussing ideas from complex text in English. The video can be stopped and restarted at various spots to allow for discussion.

CGCS also released a corresponding 45-minute professional development video on the shifts in the Common Core for mathematics, [“From the Page to the Classroom: Implementing the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics.”](#) This video emphasizes the three shifts inherent in the standards for mathematics education and features Jason Zimba. Like the ELA/Literacy video, this video has start and stop points to allow for discussion to build a shared understanding of the shifts.

Grade-by-Grade Parent Guides to the Common Core in English and Spanish

The Council of the Great City Schools has developed content and grade-specific **parent roadmaps** that provide detailed information for parents about the expectations of the Common Core in English Language Arts and Literacy and Mathematics. These roadmaps include examples of grade-level focus in the content area using parent-friendly language, sample progressions of learning across three grade levels in the Common Core, and tips to parents on communicating with teachers about their child’s work and how to support student learning at home. CGCS completed the high school-level guides in February 2013, completing the set of guides from K-12 in English language arts and mathematics.

More translations will follow throughout the school year.

K-12 Parent Guides for the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts/Literacy:

- [English](#)
- [Spanish](#)

K-12 Parent Guides for the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics:

- [English](#)
- [Spanish](#)

America's Business Leaders Support the Common Core State Standards

On February 12, 2013, 73 of America's top business leaders came together and published [an open letter in the New York Times](#) declaring their support for the Common Core State Standards. The letter noted that the presidents, CEOs, and chairmen of many of America's leading companies, "support these new, tougher academic standards that are currently being rolled out in classrooms across the country. These standards will better prepare students for college and the workplace, something of critical importance to the nation's employers. The changes now under way in America's schools hold great promise for creating a more highly skilled workforce that is better equipped to meet the needs of local, state and national economies."

World Languages Support Common Core Literacy

The Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy challenge *all* subject areas to take on active roles in developing students' literacy. The [American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages](#) (ACTFL) developed a crosswalk document to demonstrate how their National Standards for Learning Languages align with the Common Core by identifying how each of the standards within each strand are addressed through standards- and performance-based language learning. This document also contains examples of how language students at novice, intermediate, and advanced levels demonstrate the English Language Arts and Literacy standards. View the alignment document: [Alignment of the National Standards for Learning Languages with the Common Core State Standards](#) and read more in an article from ACTFL's journal *The Language Educator* from January 2013: ["The Common Core Framework and World Languages: A Wake-up Call for All"](#) by Audrey L. Heining-Boynton (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) and Mary Lynn Redmond (Wake Forest University).