



Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS)

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Dear Colleagues,

Happy spring! As the release for the new assessments approaches, the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is pleased to share a newly released planning tool and additional guidance from the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) consortium. PARCC will be releasing further guidelines and planning tools in the coming months in order to help schools and districts prepare to administer the new assessments in the 2014-2015 school year. If you are interested in additional guidance and tools, PARCC has created [this chart](#) that outlines the anticipated release of information.

This newsletter includes several additional tools to assist states in implementing the Common Core and the new assessments. We encourage you to share these items with key stakeholders in your states.

Thank you,

The CCSSO Common Core Implementation Team

Featured in this newsletter:

- **Planning Tool and Guidance for Assessment Adoption**
- **ELA Standards Translated into Spanish**
- **Louisiana Releases ELA Scope and Sequence Documents**
- **Release of Dr. Schmidt Papers on Common Core Mathematics Implementation**
- **Common Core Tool for Legislators**

- **Student Performance and the Common Core State Standards**

Planning Tool and Guidance for Assessment Adoption

In order to prepare schools and districts for the new 21st Century Assessments, PARCC recently released a new planning tool and helpful guidance to ease the transition to the assessments. The [PARCC Assessment Administration Capacity Planning Tool](#) provides schools and districts with an excel spreadsheet designed to identify gaps in capacity and explore ways to address these gaps. This tool was developed at the request of administrators and school leaders in order to help them plan for successful test administration.

PARCC also [released guidance](#) that provides schools and districts with more information about the design of the assessments in English language arts/literacy and mathematics. This guidance includes specific information about the number of testing sessions and the approximate time it will take students to complete the assessments.

ELA Standards Translated into Spanish

The San Diego County Office of Education, CCSSO, and the California Department of Education completed a translation of the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy into Spanish. [Common Core en Español is now available](#) to each state and territory that has adopted the Common Core State Standards. An effort to translate the mathematics standards into Spanish is currently underway.

Louisiana Releases ELA Scope and Sequence Documents

Teachers from Louisiana collaborated to [create year-long scope and sequences for English Language Arts by grade level](#). Included with the documents are how-to guides for teachers. In addition to the year-long scope and sequence resources, the Louisiana Department of Education has developed parallel tools for mathematics implementation.

Release of Dr. Schmidt Papers on Common Core Mathematics Implementation

Dr. William Schmidt and the Education Policy Center at Michigan State University released three papers discussing implementation of the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics (CCSSM). Each paper includes findings derived from separate surveys conducted in 2011 and provides baseline information on awareness, support, and progress on CCSSM implementation among key stakeholders.

- [*Implementing the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics: What We Know About Teachers of Mathematics in 41 States:*](#) In 2011, the Center for the Study of Curriculum at Michigan State University conducted a survey of school district directors and math teachers in the states that have adopted the CCSSM. The goal of the survey was to provide baseline

information about what math teachers and school district directors know about the standards as well as inform and guide efforts as states begin implementation.

- *[Implementing the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics: What Parents Know and Support](#)*: In order for implementation of the CCSSM to be successful, all stakeholders must be engaged. The Center for the Study of Curriculum conducted a survey of the parents of students in grades 1-8 about their perceptions and attitudes towards education in general and the standards in particular.
- *[Implementing the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics: A Comparison of Current District Content Coverage in 41 States](#)*: The Center for the Study of Curriculum conducted a survey of all states that have adopted the CCSSM. The goal was to provide baseline information about awareness of the CCSSM initiative, gain understanding of how well acquainted education officials were with specific CCSSM topics, and to determine progress in local efforts to implement CCSSM.

Common Core State Standards Tool for Legislators

Achieve, Education First, the Aspen Institute, and the Insight Education Group collaborated in developing a [resource for state legislators](#) to help them understand the Common Core State Standards and their role in supporting implementation. The paper includes background, issues, and questions relating to the Common Core State Standards and provides detailed guidance on impact state legislators can have.

Specifically, the tool discusses how state legislators can impact issues of curriculum, assessment, teacher professional learning, teacher preparation, and teacher and principal effectiveness by exercising their oversight, authorization, and appropriation powers. Realizing every state is different, this tool includes general questions and information state legislators should ask to determine the amount of influence, support, and guidance they can provide as the Common Core State Standards are adopted.

Student Performance and the Common Core State Standards

MetaMetrics recently released the policy brief, *[Looking Worse Before We Look Better: Student Performance in a Common Core World](#)* that addresses the effect adoption of the Common Core State Standards will have on student achievement. As implementation moves forward, there are critical transitional steps that will loom large in the success or failure of this movement. Communicating the inevitable drop in assessment scores under the Common Core State Standards is critical to ensuring success. This policy brief examines some of the issues that will need to be addressed in order to avoid a crisis of confidence.