Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS)
Issue 36 ● April 17, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

Our thoughts are with the victims of the marathon bombing and the entire city of Boston.

With the third anniversary of the release of the Common Core State Standards quickly approaching on June 2, 2013, the Council of Chief State School Officers continues to support states in leading the implementation of the Common Core State Standards. One way CCSSO supports all states is by providing support on communicating about the standards to local and national stakeholders. If your state is receiving questions about the Common Core and you would like additional support or access to materials about the development of the standards, please don't hesitate to contact commonstandards@ccsso.org. In addition, there are resources in today's newsletter that are wonderful to share with educators, parents, and other stakeholders about the standards, like the recent piece published in the National Review about the Common Core.

The tools and resources in today's newsletter are included to continue to support state education agencies and educators in leading the important work of implementing the Common Core State Standards in classrooms and raising expectations for all students.

Thank you!
The CCSSO Common Core Implementation Team

Featured in this newsletter:

- **National Review Article Responds to Common Core Backlash**
- **Guide for Developing Digital Resources to Support Common Core State Standards**

- **Common Core State Standards Resource Available to Teachers**
- **Teachers Selected to Lead Common Core Transition in Tennessee**
- **Updated Assessment Guide Released**
- **NCTM President Voices Support for the Common Core State Standards**
- **Video for Parents and Families Highlighting Common Assessments**
- **Upcoming Events**

National Review Article Responds to Common Core Backlash

Kathleen Porter-Magee and Sol Stern - education scholars with the Fordham Institute and Manhattan Institute, respectively - authored an op-ed in the National Review that defends the Common Core State Standards. The authors debunk myths and hold up the merits of the Common Core State Standards.

Guide for Developing Digital Resources to Support Common Core State Standards

Student Achievement Partners has compiled a guide for developing digital resources that support Common Core State Standard implementation. The guide supports content developers in understanding the structure of the standards and the major shifts they represent. The document is a primer on responsible interpretation of the Common Core State Standards for those creating digital programs and resources to support implementation.

Common Core State Standards Resource Available to Teachers

The National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) recently made Common Core State Standards (CCSS) resources available to all teachers with unlimited access by sharing them on the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) open-source website. NMSI partnered with PARCC to launch the Educator Cadre Initiative, which helps states build and expand the number of educators who understand and support the Common Core State Standards and assessments.

Teachers Selected to Lead Common Core Transition in Tennessee

The Tennessee Department of Education is enlisting the help of more than 700 teachers to help their peers make the transition to the Common Core State Standards. The teacher cohort will lead 5 weeks of summer training on the Common Core and will serve as ambassadors to reach more than 30,000 teachers throughout the state.

Updated Assessment Guide Released

After receiving requests for refreshed communication tools, the ETS K-12 Center released a four-page guide to the upcoming assessments. This tool provides a snapshot of the designs and plans of PARCC and Smarter Balanced.

NCTM President Voices Support for the Common Core State Standards

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics' (NCTM) President Linda Gojak wrote an article "Common Core State Standards for Mathematics: An Uncommon Opportunity" for NCTM educators in support of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. As someone who spent nearly 30 years teaching and several more supporting teachers, she makes a strong and personal case for the adoption and implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

Video for Parents and Families Highlighting Common Assessments

In order to prepare parents for the upcoming state assessments, New York State Education Commissioner John King released a video for parents and families. This video is a useful tool for engaging parents and can be used in other states and districts.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars! There are several upcoming webinars on the Common Core State Standards.

- **Thursday, April 25 from 2pm-3pm (ET)**: The National Governors Association is hosting a webinar entitled *Transforming Professional Learning: The Kentucky Story.* The webinar will focus on the partnership between Learning Forward and the Kentucky Department of Education which resulted in the development and implementation of a model system of professional learning which addresses the professional development demands of the Common Core State Standards. To register, visit: https://nga.webex.com/nga/onstage/g.php?t=a&d=594166558
- **Monday, May 6 from 2pm-3pm (ET):** Join CCSSO and the America's Promise Alliance for a webinar exploring how expanded learning opportunities can help students achieve under the Common Core State Standards. To register, visit: https://ccsso.webex.com/ccsso/j.php?J=714237957