



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

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Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce that CCSSO has released updated versions of two important compilations of resources: [\*Implementing the Common Core: State Spotlights\*](#) and [\*Common Core State Standards: Implementation Tools and Resources\*](#). The first document highlights state initiatives and resources produced by states, the second features high quality resources created by CCSSO and our national partners to support Common Core implementation.

The third edition of the [\*State Spotlight\*](#) document was updated extensively to include current and innovative strategies states are using to implement the Common Core. This resource is intended to facilitate networking between states by providing a platform to share best practices and lessons learned. The document focuses on the following areas:

- Communication and Engagement
- System Alignment and System Change
- Educator Supports

The [\*Common Core State Standards: Implementation Tools and Resources\*](#) guide includes items developed by CCSSO and other partner organizations that can assist states, districts, administrators, and educators as they implement the Common Core. All items listed in this guide are freely available. Content in both documents will be updated on a quarterly basis. If you have any resources or state initiatives to add to either of these documents, please contact Shannon Glynn at [\*shannong@ccsso.org\*](mailto:shannong@ccsso.org).

Happy Memorial Day weekend!

The CCSSO Common Core Implementation Team

## Featured in this newsletter:

- **CCSSO Updates State Spotlight and Resource Documents**
- **Teaching to the Core: Recommendations on Aligning Common Core and Educator Effectiveness**
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### **CCSSO Updates State Spotlight and Resource Documents**

The updated versions of [\*Implementing the Common Core: State Spotlights\*](#) and [\*Common Core State Standards: Implementation Tools and Resources\*](#) have been released and are now on the [CCSSO website](#). The State Spotlight document can be particularly useful to states as they continue to implement the Common Core. It is an excellent resource and offers a way to facilitate ongoing networking between states. Highlighted examples are intended to serve as a quick reference guide that shares best practices and lessons learned. We hope that this document continues to spur further Common Core implementation innovation in states.

Both these documents will be updated on a quarterly basis. If you have a resource you would like to share, [please contact Shannon Glynn](#) at [shannong@ccsso.org](mailto:shannong@ccsso.org).

### **Teaching to the Core: Recommendations on Aligning Common Core and Educator Effectiveness**

CCSSO and the Aspen Institute Education and Society Program co-published a paper titled [\*Teaching to the Core: Integrating Implementation of Common Core and Teacher Effectiveness Policies\*](#). The brief is authored by Ross Weiner, Vice-President of the Aspen Institute and recommends ten actions for state leaders to strengthen state implementation of Common Core State Standards and meaningful teacher evaluations.

As states continue to implement the Common Core State Standards, a majority are also putting in place policies to increase teacher effectiveness, including rigorous evaluation systems. These ambitious reforms have the potential to greatly improve student outcomes and equity. Creating a unified improvement agenda from these two initiatives demands intensive collaboration across states, sophisticated change management, and a focus on continued improvement. The practical suggestions in the brief will help state leaders ensure that teachers are engaging students in high level learning.

## **Business Roundtable Sends Letter in Support of Common Core**

John Engler, former Governor and current President of the Business Roundtable, sent a [letter to the Republican National Committee](#) expressing strong support for the Common Core State Standards. The Business Roundtable is an organization that includes more than 200 chief executive officers who lead U.S. companies in every sector of the economy in states throughout the country. Writing on behalf of their members, the Business Roundtable reiterated that these standards were designed by the states and are critical to building and maintaining a workforce that can compete in the global economy.

## **Video: Common Core in Practice**

America Achieves went into classrooms to document examples of teachers that have successfully transitioned to teaching the Common Core. They created [five videos](#) that show teachers putting the new standards into practice and how enthusiastically their students are responding.

## **Changing Role of the ESL Teacher**

Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) has [released a report](#) summarizing discussions that took place during a convening of English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers and administrators, experts, and thought leaders. The purpose of the meeting was to give ESL teachers a venue to speak about the Common Core State Standards and discuss their role in implementation. Since the Common Core seeks to ensure all students are college and career ready, ESL teachers will have an important role to play in successful implementation.

## **Common Core Flyer for Families and Stakeholders**

The [Aspen Institute has produced a flyer](#) that can be sent to families and other community stakeholders. The flyer explains what the standards are and why they are important. It can serve as a great resource for states as they work to engage parents and other important stakeholders.

## **Op-eds Supporting the Common Core**

In the past few weeks, several op-eds strongly supporting the Common Core have run in national, state and local publications. Below are some of the most recent:

- [Michael Gerson, opinion writer for the Washington Post](#), penned a piece that defends the Common Core and debunks several myths that have been circulating.
- [It's Just Common Sense](#) by syndicated radio host Phil Valentine outlines his thoughts and ultimate support of the Common Core.
- [The 'Monster' at the End of the Common Core](#) considers objections to the Common Core from the left and describes author Laura Thomas' own support for the standards.

- [\*New Core Standards Good for Economy\*](#) written by Jack Warner, executive director of the South Dakota Board of Regents, provides a perspective from higher education on why Common Core is good for the economy.

### **Upcoming Webinars**

CCSSO and the Council of the Great City Schools, in partnership with Student Achievement Partners, are hosting two webinars for content developers focused on the Common Core State Standards Publishers' Criteria in ELA/Literacy and Mathematics. The webinars will be interactive sessions focused on key aspects of the publishers' criteria based on questions submitted in advance and will also provide time for a live Q&A.

- To register for the CCSS Publishers' Criteria Webinar - Mathematics, [click here](#).
- To register for the CCSS Publishers' Criteria Webinar – ELA/Literacy, [click here](#).