

July 2014 Monthly Resources:



Dear Common Core Implementation Team Member,

Greetings! I can hardly believe it is July. I hope that your year ended well and your summer is off to a successful start.

This month, our “mailing” includes useful information for PARCC preparation, a CCSS curriculum evaluation tool, Student Achievement Partner’s “Student Assessment Inventory for School Districts,” information about the readoption of the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards, including Next Generation Science Standards, a USA Today CCSS article, Mind/Shift website by KQED and NPR, the link to a webinar for the National Core Arts Standards, a CCSSO report on the development and purpose of the CCSS, and an ASCD SmartBrief list, which includes “the most engaging and innovative Twitter accounts.” We have also included information about a Leadership Academy and free professional development opportunities for the summer.

I. Model Content Frameworks

The model content frameworks provide guidance on key elements of quality instruction aligned to standards. The Frameworks for Mathematics provide detailed information about selected practice standards, fluencies, connections and content emphases, including examples of key content dependencies (where one concept ought to come before another), key advances from the previous grade, and opportunities for in-depth work on key concepts. Teachers of Algebra I and Algebra II may find the information regarding which standards will be assessed on the PARCC Algebra I and Algebra II assessments particularly useful. The Frameworks for ELA/Literacy include a narrative summary of the ELA Standards, a model content framework chart that presents a visual overview of the standards in a particular grade level (including crucial reading demands and written emphases for instructional planning), key terms and concepts for the model content framework chart, and progression charts for the writing and the speaking and listening standards. <http://parcconline.org/parcc-model-content-frameworks>

II. CCSS Implementation Curriculum Evaluation Tool – English Language Arts and Mathematics

This tool is designed to help schools leaders assess district curriculum using PARCC resources in order to determine whether any revisions or alterations in sequencing are

necessary to ensure that standards are addressed prior to the PBA and EOY assessments. Use of this tool is completely optional and is intended solely as a means of guiding efforts that may be undertaken during the summer to make final preparations for the 2015 state assessments.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/evaluation/ELA.pdf>

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/evaluation/Mathematics.pdf>

III. Student Assessment Inventory for School Districts

Recently, concerns have been raised by parents and educators about the amount of testing in schools. While assessment is a critical component of the teaching and learning process, it is important to consider how much time is spent on assessments and the degree to which results are used to improve student achievement.

According to Achieve, "This *Student Assessment Inventory for School Districts* is a tool district leaders can use to take stock of their assessments and assessment strategy." The guidance and resources included in the tool can be used to support a process that includes reflection on the current approach to assessment, completion of a comprehensive assessment inventory, analysis of inventory results, and the development of recommendations that may be used to streamline assessments and address possible redundancies or gaps in the assessments administered at each grade level. <http://www.achieve.org/files/AchieveStudentAssessmentInventory.pdf>

IV. NJ State Board of Education Resolution on Readoption of Academic Standards including Next Generation Science Standards

On July 9th, the NJ State Board of Education is scheduled to vote on the readoption of the following NJCCCS: Comprehensive Health and Physical Education, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Visual and Performing Arts, World Language and Preschool Teaching and Learning standards. While most of the sets of standards are likely to remain largely unchanged, some (Preschool and Science) may include more significant revisions. Educators are encouraged to check the NJDOE website in late July to access information about the updated standards. The 21st Century Life and Careers and Technology standards are scheduled to begin the review and readoption process in the fall.

V. USA Today CCSS article

In this USA Today op-ed, John Ewing, president of Math for America, describes how the Common Core forms an educational framework of eight mathematical practices for all grades and explains what it means to understand, not just memorize math procedures. He further suggests that an obsession with test-based accountability has distorted every aspect of modern education, stating that to "abandon the standards because they might be misused is to argue that we should abandon education itself."

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2014/05/21/common-core-standards-education-column/9298343/>

VI. Mind/Shift website by KQED (Public Media for North Carolina) and National Public Radio (NPR)

In 2010, KQED and NPR created the Mind/Shift blog website which “explores the future of learning in all its dimensions, covering cultural and technology trends, innovations in education, groundbreaking research, education policy, and more.” The June 11 entry by a high school librarian features “Apps that Rise to the Top: Tested and Approved by Teachers”: <http://blogs.kqed.org/mindshift/2014/06/apps-that-rise-to-the-top-tested-and-approved-by-teachers/>

<http://blogs.kqed.org/mindshift/about/>

VII. National Core Arts Standards

The NCAS website provides access to the June 4th webinar that launched the National Core Arts Standards. The site also includes a document that describes the “...philosophy, primary goals, dynamic processes, structures, and outcomes that shape student learning and achievement in dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts.” <http://nccas.wikispaces.com>.

<http://nccas.wikispaces.com/National+Core+Arts+Standards+Launch>

VIII. CCSSO’s Report - *The Common Core State Standards: Insight onto their Development and Purpose.*

A Common Core committee co-chair explains the research behind higher standards. This report provides a clear, concise, and accurate summary of the rationale and development process of the Common Core, along with a summary of the research base supporting the standards and evidence that the Common Core State Standards will prepare students for college and careers.

http://www.ccsso.org/Documents/2014/CCSS_Insight_Into_Development_2014.pdf

IX. ASCD SmartBrief List

Laura Devaney, the eSchool News Managing Editor, has compiled a list of the “most engaging and innovative Twitter accounts” educators may wish to follow. Included in the list is a NJ principal! <http://www.eschoolnews.com/2014/06/17/innovative-twitter-accounts-365/2/>

X. New Jersey Leadership Academy - Quality Professional Development for Educational Leaders

The New Jersey Leadership Academy emerged in response to the growing need for high-quality, sustained, collaborative, professional development to support the work of school leaders as they meet the new demands of instructional leadership. A partnership of NJASA, NJPSA/FEA, and supported by the NJDOE, the Academy is a new, structured approach to professional development for all educational leaders that

satisfies the Professional Development Plan requirement and allows for more comprehensive learning through cohorts of leaders at all levels. With a focus on building coherence across the key reforms to improve student learning, the Academy will engage participants in a process to foster collaborative inquiry, build leadership skills and provide opportunities for implementation at the school and district levels. Please see the link below to view the brochure.

<http://fea.njpsa.org/documents/pdf/NJLABrochure-Final.pdf>

XI. Professional Development Opportunities

New Workshops for Teachers: Improving Discussion, Questioning, and Student Engagement

This summer, the Office of Evaluation will provide workshops that focus on key elements of teacher practice. Attendees will investigate strategies to enhance discussion and questioning techniques as well as student engagement. The content is not specific to one particular observation instrument or to any particular discipline, but can apply broadly to effective instruction.

- All teachers can benefit from the workshop, but those who can turnkey training and provide support to colleagues, are especially encouraged to attend. In addition, teachers who have been identified for improvement in these areas will benefit from the sessions.
- The workshops, which are free to NJ public school educators, will be led by Office of Evaluation presenters, who have spoken to tens of thousands of educators over the past two years. The sessions are designed to be informative, practical and purposeful.
- Locations include Princeton, New Providence, Sussex and several locations near the shore including Stockton University, Lacey Township and Neptune. Dates are between July 7 and August 21.
- For full registration details, please visit our [Upcoming Events web page](#).

Thank you for all you are doing on behalf of our students, our faculty, and our schools.

Tracey Severns, Ed.D.
Chief Academic Officer



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 What's Trending?**

New Features & Content on NJCORE.ORG (<http://njcore.org/>)

- Badge awards for resource contributions levels.
- Featured content area on homepage

	Month (June)	Since Launch
Number of Registered Educators	90	1,987
Number of Visitors	4,227	70,428
Top 5 Districts	#1	Trenton
	#2	Carteret
	#3	Passaic
	#4	Brick
	#5	Newark