

Office of Teaching & Learning Support *presents...*

Common Core Implementation Team (CCIT)



The Blast!

Dear Colleagues,

You probably have plenty of activities to choose from as you decide how to use the extra day of February this Leap Year 2016! My team and I join you in hoping to make the most of that extra time by continuing to facilitate your work through a host of ongoing projects – and here are some updates.

First, we offer a highlight of another Division office—the **Office of Academic Initiatives and Fiscal Accounting**, directed by Karin Garver. Read about the responsibilities Karin and her team cover to support Division staff as we support your work with students.

Next, read the news on the **NJ Standards Review Process**. The Standards Review Committee and I presented a final report at the January 11th NJ State Board of Education meeting. You, and other stakeholders, are now invited to share your comments about the proposed revisions to the English language arts and mathematics standards. There will be three public hearings in February and March during which testimony will be heard by NJSBOE members.

Meanwhile, registered users of **New Jersey Collaborative Online Resource Exchange (NJCORE)** have doubled in just six months! This is thanks to you and your colleagues who are flocking to this dynamic clearinghouse for crowd-sourced resources linked to the standards across content and grade levels. Remember, too, that all Blast resources are uploaded to www.njcore.org so there is always new material to view and use.

Finally, the **Blended Online Learning Modules (BOLM)** pilot program will be launched on February 4th across thirty-three districts. These courses were created through a partnership with New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), using the Connected Action Roadmap (CAR) model developed by NJPSA/FEA. A formal evaluation process will help us learn best practices for implementing BOLM next fall. In the meantime, any educator or PLC can access the courses in the NJCORE Professional Learning toolkit by visiting <http://www.njcore.org/resources/portal/18240/learning>

May the winter days ahead bring many opportunities for student growth and success—and some fun in the snow!

Kimberley Harrington,
Chief Academic Officer
Division of Teaching and Learning



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Division's Office Highlight [\(top\)](#)

This month, *The Blast* highlights the Division's **Office of Academic Initiatives and Fiscal Accountability (AIFA)**, directed by **Karin Garver**. Members of AIFA are engaged in a varied set of finance and data-related projects to support both internal and external activities of the Department of Education. The main goals of the office are to:

- Assist Division staff in obtaining approval for travel, event and procurement requests, and provide oversight and guidance for the spending of Division funding;
- Oversee all finances related to the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant, as well as all internal funding related to the Preschool Expansion grant;
- Manage and provide fiscal oversight for the development of the NJ Enterprise Analysis System for Early Learning (NJ-EASEL), an RTT-ELC grant-funded initiative to integrate specific early care and education data from 14 data systems across 4 state agencies; and
- Assist Division offices in the development of baseline data to inform internal and external policy decisions, as well as to inform short and long-term budget needs.

Overall, the Office of Academic Initiatives and Fiscal Accountability works with each of the offices within the Division of Teaching and Learning to coordinate finances across state and federal funding streams, and lend support for overarching policy decisions.

Please feel free to contact AIFA for more information about how we can provide support to you, or to ask specific questions. To reach us, e-mail the director at Karin.garver@doe.state.nj.us.



NJ Standards Review Update [\(top\)](#)

The Standards Review Committee presented their final report at the January 11th meeting of the NJ State Board of Education. Visit the Standards Review website below to read the recommendations for revising ELA and mathematics standards.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/standards/>

The next phase of the Standards Review process will be a series of regional public hearings, scheduled for February and March, at which the public is invited to share comments with members of the NJSBOE. To attend or speak at one of the hearings, register at the website below.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/news/2016/0128stand.htm>



NJ CORE Update [\(top\)](#)

Have you NJCORE'd today?! Don't be left out of the action at www.njcore.org where resources for your classroom and professional learning are ready to be accessed. Register as a user, upload your favorite resources, and add your ratings to help others find what they need on NJ's Collaborative Online Resource Exchange. Don't forget to look for the Blended Online Learning Modules in the Professional Learning toolkit on the homepage.

www.njcore.org

Have you seen NJDOE on Facebook?



Find us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/njdeptofed>



Resources for NJ Academic Standards

Be sure to visit www.njcore.org for these and other newly uploaded resources!



ELA and Mathematics (top):

Lessons Focused on African American Literature

The ReadWriteThink website offers a calendar of learning activities for Black History Month, including details about how to participate in the 2016 African American Read-In. Find K-12 lesson plans, with related handouts, linked to the ELA standards.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/calendar-activities/take-part-african-american-20419.html>

Strategies to Enhance Student Discourse in Math

Access this free Curriculum Associates whitepaper by Dr. Gladis Kersaint, Professor of Mathematics at the University of South Florida, on “Orchestrating Mathematical Discourse to Enhance Student Learning.” She presents specific strategies, with examples, to help teachers facilitate student conversations on mathematical practices and concepts. See pages 9 and 18 for an overview of teacher/student actions to be observed and key questions to promote meaningful discourse.

http://www.casamples.com/downloads/WP_OrchestratingDiscourse.pdf

Teaching Geometry through Modular Origami

This article explains how to use modular origami to teach a range of geometry terms and concepts. The author, a teacher, explains that engaging students in origami helps them with sequencing and following directions. She provides step by step instructions in the embedded video.

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/top-teaching/2016/01/teaching-math-modular-origami>



Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) (top)

NJDOE High School Model Science Curricula

The Model Science Curricula for high school chemistry, biology, and physics are now available at the NJDOE website below. K-5 course outlines and a limited number of K-5 units are also available. All K-5 model science units will be posted by June 30, 2016.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/modelcurriculum/sci/>

U.S. Department of Energy Teaching Resources

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), within the U.S. Department of Energy, “accelerates development and facilitates deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.” On the EERE Teach and Learn webpage, find videos, data tools, lessons, activities, and other online resources for educators teaching at all grade levels.

<http://energy.gov/eere/education/teach-and-learn>



NGSS News, Videos, and January 2016 Newsletter

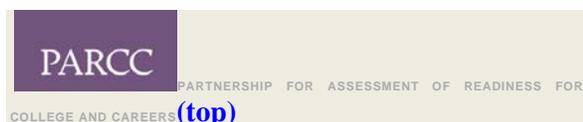
Look under “Latest News” on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) website for video resources and the January 2016 NOW newsletter.

<http://www.nextgenscience.org/>

CCSSO's New Career Readiness Initiative

The findings of a Career Readiness Task Force resulted in CCSSO's Career Readiness Initiative. The initiative includes ongoing career readiness support, as well as targeted technical assistance, to a network of states. The states in the network, which includes NJ, are adopting the Task Force recommendations. To further support the endeavor, JPMorgan Chase has given \$35 million for CCSSO's New Skills for Youth grant opportunity for states.

http://www.ccsso.org/Resources/Programs/Career_Readiness_Initiative.html



NJDOE Posts PARCC Data on Website

In a February 2nd Broadcast memo, Commissioner Hesper announced that the Department has posted district-level and school-level PARCC data online. See the website below for 2015 Assessment Reports, including PARCC and other statewide test results.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/schools/achievement/>

NJDOE Assessments Webpage

Visit this NJDOE webpage for the District Toolkit of Resources to communicate with parents about PARCC.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/parcc/resources/>



UnderstandTheScore.org by PARCC

This PARCC website helps parents understand their child's score report and progress toward meeting grade level expectations and mastering skills.

<http://understandthescore.org/>

Broadcast Memo on PARCC Portfolio Appeals

This October 6, 2015, Broadcast memo describes the PARCC Portfolio Appeals process which districts follow for students who cannot complete graduation requirements through standard state assessments. The time period for accepting appeals started January 11th and extends through Friday, May 13, 2016.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/district/100615Appeals.pdf>

Study Commission on Use of Student Assessments

The Study Commission on the Use of Student Assessments in NJ presented its final report on January 11 to Governor Christie. The Commission was charged with reviewing and providing recommendations about the volume, frequency and impact of student assessments in NJ. The summary and full report are available at the website below.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/news/2016/0111scsa.htm>

PARCC's Partnership Resource Center

At the PARCC Partnership Resource Center below, find scoring rubrics, as well as scored and annotated samples of students' work. The site also offers PARCC's new Test Builder tool to use the released items to build local assessments. To access NJ data, create a new account and enter the NJ code: NJ1787

<https://prc.parcconline.org/>



FREE Professional Learning (top)

NJDOE Career Ready Practices Workshops

This Broadcast memo from Marie Barry, Director of Office of Career Readiness, describes a series of half-day Career Ready Practices workshops for educators in March. The memo provides a link for registration.

<https://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2016/FEB/02/14523/Career%20Ready%20Practices%20PD.pdf>

NJDOE Science Workshops for 2016

Regional professional development sessions are scheduled for February 2016 and beyond to support teachers as they translate the Model Science Curriculum units into local curriculum. Teachers and administrators can select appropriate sessions, based on their grade levels, at the website below.

<http://education.state.nj.us/events/>

NJ Chamber Foundation Educator Workshops

The NJ Chamber Foundation is offering free workshops for educators focused on “Cultivating College and Career Ready Students.” The first session is scheduled for February 10. Find more information and register online at the website below.

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ebx4n14nf8b7b814&llr=7gcjqzka>

NJDOE Bilingual/ESL 2016 Workshops

The Office of Supplemental Educational Programs, Bureau of ESL/Bilingual Education, is offering professional development in the months ahead for district staff working with ELL students. Find a session to attend at the website below.

<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2015/AUG/25/13986/Bilingual.ESL%202015-16%20Professional%20Development.pdf>



FREE Webinars and MOOCs

Free National Archives Webinar Series

In this NJDOE Broadcast memo, CAO Kimberley Harrington announces a series of free National Archives Webinars on the use of primary sources. See the memo below for webinar dates.

<https://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2016/JAN/05/14444/National%20Archives%20Webinar%20Series.pdf>

Primary Source Webinars

Primary Source is a nonprofit organization that works to advance global education in schools. On the website below, find free webinars offered in February, as well as other resources, to help educators bring global education into the classroom.

<http://www.primarysource.org/for-teachers/free-online-seminars>

Stanford Releases MOOCs Language

On this website, find access to two free MOOCs by Stanford University on “Understanding Language.” See descriptions of the February courses, as well as archived offerings, at the website below.

<http://ell.stanford.edu/content/moocs>

ASCD Webinars for February

Check for free upcoming and archived webinars on the ASCD website below.

<http://www.ascd.org/professional-development/webinars.aspx>



Further Reading (top)

NJASCD's Winter 2016 Front Page e-Publication

This NJASCD e-publication, written by Marie Adair, NJASCD Executive Director, focuses on professional learning as a matter of collaboration and best practice, rather than compliance. She talks about the Partnership for Collaborative Professional Learning which advocates for this approach, as well as the Blended Online Learning Modules by NJDOE, NJPSA/FEA and NJIT, which offer new professional learning tools for individual educators and PLCs.

<http://njascd.org/cms/lib7/NJ01001271/Centricity/Domain/1/The%20Front%20Page%20-%20A%20Series%202016.pdf>

New CCSSO Webpage on ESSA Resources

CCSSO has created a new website to provide information on the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), as well as helpful resources for educators, parents and community members. Resources include an NCLB vs. ESSA section “cross-walk” to highlight similarities and differences in the two laws.

http://www.ccsso.org/Resources/Programs/Every_Student_Succeeds_Act.html

NJDOE’s NJ Educator Connection

The *NJ Educator Connection* is the NJDOE newsletter for teachers covering timely and relevant information. Subscribe at the website below.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/newsletter/>

**YOU are the Resource! (top)****Nominate a K-6 Teacher for the PAEMST**

Nominate a K-6 teacher for the **Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)**. Awardees are recognized as leaders in improving mathematics and science education. They will receive \$10,000 from the National Science Foundation, as well as attend special events and professional development opportunities. Deadline for nominations is **April 1**, and applications must be submitted by **May 1, 2016**.

<https://www.paemst.org/>

**Grants & Opportunities for Teachers and Students (top)****Be a 2016 PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovator**

PBS LearningMedia presents the fourth annual Digital Innovators program, recognizing educators who incorporate digital media in classrooms and serve as leaders in educational technology. Selected applicants will attend the 2016 PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovators Summit. Deadline is **February 8, 2016**.

http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/digitalinnovators/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Innovate2015

National Youth Science Camp Scholarships

This January 19th Broadcast memo provides information on the 2016 National Youth Science Camp and process for nominating high school seniors for full scholarships. The awardees will participate in a month-long series of lectures, idea exchanges and hands-on research with scientists and other professionals. Deadline is **February 17, 2016**.

<https://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2016/JAN/19/14488/National%20Youth%20Science%20Camp.pdf>

Before you go....

How else can we help you? Tell us more at njcore@doe.state.nj.us!



Know someone who needs The Blast? Send them to our Blast sign-up page at: <http://education.state.nj.us/ccit/subscribe.php>



Missing a CCIT Blast mailing? Go to: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/team/ccit/>

See you in March!