

## March 2014 Monthly Resource:



This month, our “mailing” includes the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Resolution that was adopted by the NJ State Board of Education, a CCSS statement of support, a letter to Arne Duncan regarding data privacy, information on the recently released PARCC sample items, and a list of free professional development opportunities.

### I. Common Core State Standards Resolution

On February 12, 2014 the NJ State Board President and Commissioner Cerf signed a Resolution that reaffirmed the State’s commitment to the CCSS. This may be helpful for districts that have received CCSS “opt-out” requests from parents.

The Resolution stated:

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey State Board of Education adopted rigorous Common Core State Standards on June 19, 2010, and adopted rigorous Core Curriculum Content Standards and associated cumulative progress indicators in January 2008, which established the basis for local curricula and instruction for all students, the Statewide assessment system, and the evaluation of district boards of education; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey State Board of Education is empowered, pursuant to P. L. 1990, c. 52, P. L. 1991, c. 3 and P. L. 1991, c. 62., with the authority to establish the State's educational goals and standards; and

**WHEREAS**, along with the adoption of the standards, the New Jersey State Board of Education directed school districts to align their curricula for all students with the K-12 standards in mathematics, language arts literacy, social studies, science, visual and performing arts, health and physical education, world languages, technology, and 21<sup>st</sup> century life and careers; and

**WHEREAS**, the standards and accompanying indicators serve as the basis for State or local assessments deemed appropriate by the State Board of Education and the Department of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, the standards define the knowledge and skills students should acquire within their K-12 education careers to graduate high school with the ability to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Common Core State Standards are deemed to be internationally benchmarked high standards that provide students with a clear year-to-year progression to ensure New Jersey students graduate high school ready for college and career and endowed with the critical thinking skills required of all graduates in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; and

**WHEREAS**, district boards of education shall fully comply with this directive and shall implement all State standards, align their curricula to the standards, and ensure all students learn and are assessed as required by federal law, according to the standards, including Common Core aligned assessments; and, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, the New Jersey State Board of Education hereby reaffirms its commitment to the implementation of the adopted Core Curriculum Content Standards, including the Common Core State Standards; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education reminds district boards of education of their obligation to implement all Core Curriculum Content Standards, including the Common Core State Standards, and to ensure students meet the expectations and proficiency standards as measured by current and future State and local assessments.

## **II. Statement of Support for the Common Core State Standards**

Schools or districts may wish to use one of these statements of support in a communication to parents or on the district website to provide an overview of the CCSS and what they seek to accomplish for the students of NJ. A full version and abbreviated version are provided to accommodate audiences, space and time.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/team/support.htm>

**Full-Length Version:** <http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/team/SupportFull.pdf>

**Abbreviated Version:**

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/team/SupportAbbreviated.pdf>

## **III. Letter about Data Privacy to Secretary of Education Arne Duncan**

**The letter makes clear that the states will not share any personally identifiable information about K-12 students with the Department of Education or any federal agency.** This may help districts address parental concerns about data privacy.

[http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curriculum/USED%2520Letter\\_FINAL\\_01-23-14-3.pdf](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curriculum/USED%2520Letter_FINAL_01-23-14-3.pdf)

#### **IV. Resources to Support Preparation for PARCC**

On January 22, 2014, PARCC released sample test items on the testing platform students will use when taking the field test later this spring. Previously, items were available only as downloadable printouts. Now, these fully functional sample test questions allow educators and students to experience the new testing format before it becomes fully operational in spring 2015.

Educators are encouraged to try the items across all grade levels in order to develop a true understanding of the assessment's range of rigor, item types and functionalities - from a new take on traditional multiple choice style questions aided by technology to longer tasks that ask students to show their understanding. In reading and writing, students will have to show they can read and understand complex passages, write persuasively and present findings based on research. In mathematics, students will have to show their work and demonstrate they understand a concept rather than simply memorizing a formula. They will have to apply mathematics knowledge in real-world problems. To express their understandings, students will have to use computer-based tools such as drag-and-drop, multiple select, text highlighting, and equation builder. By using the online tutorials that demonstrate how students will navigate the test, educators can learn how to use the computer-based tools and features that make the test more accessible for all students, including those with disabilities and English learners.  
(<http://parconline.org/computer-based-samples>)

#### **V. Professional Development**

Below are some examples of the free professional development opportunities that will be offered by the NJ DOE in the coming months. Click on <http://education.state.nj.us/events/all/> to view the complete list.

##### **Math PD**

- **K-5 Modeling & 6-12 Modeling**

Modeling is one of the eight Mathematical Practices and is a strong focus of the standards at all grade levels. This session will demonstrate how to effectively use mathematical models to support student understanding of abstract concepts by tying them to more concrete models. Participants will get to see a wide range of topics from grades K-5 and instructional strategies focused on a variety of model types.

The intended audience is K-5 math teachers, supervisors and coaches.

April 17, 2014 – Trenton - [K-5 Modeling - Central](#)

April 21, 2014 – Branchburg - [K-5 Modeling - North](#)

April 22, 2014 – Galloway - [K-5 Modeling - South](#)  
 May 14, 2014 – Trenton - [6-12 Modeling - Central](#)  
 May 19, 2014 – Branchburg - [6-12 Modeling - North](#)  
 May 20, 2014 – Galloway - [6-12 Modeling - South](#)

- **High School Reasoning**

Mathematical reasoning is inherent in three of the eight Standards for Mathematical Practice and is a central component of problem solving. This session will focus on developing students’ mathematical reasoning skills at the high school level. Many examples from across the different courses and topics will be selected that will highlight instructional strategies for building students’ reasoning abilities that are employed when students apply problem-solving techniques.

The intended audience is HS math teachers, coaches and supervisors.

March 24, 2014- Branchburg - [High School Reasoning - North](#)  
 March 26, 2014 – Galloway – [High School Reasoning - South](#)  
 March 27, 2014 – Trenton - [High School Reasoning - Central](#)

	<p><b>Do you know someone who isn't receiving these?</b></p> <p>Forward this to a colleague and encourage them to sign-up!  <a href="https://app.mobilestorm.com/cp/manageforms/preview.php?formID=14290">https://app.mobilestorm.com/cp/manageforms/preview.php?formID=14290</a></p>
	<p><b>Missed any CCIT mailings?</b></p> <p>Find previous mailings at:  <a href="http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/team/ccit.pdf">http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/team/ccit.pdf</a></p>
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