

May 2014 Monthly Resource:



Dear Common Core Implementation Team Member,

Greetings! I hope your school year is going well.

This month, our “mailing” includes useful information for PARCC preparation, two videos that can be used to help the public understand the CCSS, a rubric to assess district implementation of the CCSS, announcement of the Common Core Model Lesson/Unit Plan Awards, information about sites that provide resources for parents and teachers, and a list of free professional development opportunities.

Also, please be advised that you may receive a “welcome” email because we are changing our listserv system. It will not affect your enrollment.

I. PARCC Assessment Blueprints and Test Specifications

The blueprints are a series of documents that describe the content and structure of the assessments. These documents define the total number of tasks and/or items for each assessment component, the standards measured, the item types, and the point values for each. The ELA/literacy blueprints provide useful information to better understand the design of the assessments, the selection of passages/texts, the relationship of reading to writing, how to assemble passages/texts with questions to form cogent performance-based tasks, and how to use the ELA/literacy rubrics to guide thinking about classroom rubric use. The Mathematics blueprints demonstrate the coherent nature of the standards and clarify which evidence statements are eligible for the performance-based assessment (PBA) and the end-of-the-year assessment (EOY) <https://www.parcconline.org/assessment-blueprints-test-specs>

II. Council of Great City School’s three-minute video explaining the Common Core

This three-minute video explains the purpose of the CCSS and they can ensure that students across the nation have an equal opportunity to achieve at high levels. It is also offered in Spanish. <http://www.cgcs.org/domain/33>

III. NJ Department of Education Common Core State Standards Video

This six-minute video was developed by the NJ DOE to provide an overview of implementation of the CCSS in New Jersey. The video uses classroom footage and voices of teachers, administrators, parents, the Director of the NJ Chamber of

Commerce and NJ's Chief Academic Officer to convey the positive impact of the CCSS on teaching and learning. <http://www.nj.gov/education/sca/video/>.

IV. CCSSO's Local District Common Core Implementation – Progress and Capacity Rubric

This rubric addresses four key elements for implementation: systems alignment and system change; educator supports; student supports; and communication and engagement. Districts may wish to use this tool to identify areas of strengths and improvements.

<http://smartedu.org/nhsaa/custforms/cia/Common%20Core%20Implementation/District%20Common%20Core%20Capacity%20Rubric.pdf>

V. New Jersey Department of Education Announce Common Core Model Lesson/Unit Plan Awards <http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/awards/>

Sponsored by the Office of Academic Standards, these awards recognize exemplary lesson and unit plans that support New Jersey educators in successfully delivering curriculum and instruction aligned to the CCSS in ELA/Literacy and mathematics. Submissions will be vetted against national quality rubrics and principles. The highest scoring plans will be recognized and rewarded by the state.

Award-winning plans generated, submitted and vetted by NJ educators

When practicing teachers vet their instructional plans against national quality-based rubrics and principles, the process serves as a powerful method to identify excellence in the classroom. Current NJ teachers who are using the CCSS to improve student success are encouraged to submit lesson and unit plans to the NJDOE for scoring against the **Educators Evaluating the Quality of Instructional Products** rubrics (EQuIP) and the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). EQuIP is an initiative of the American Diploma Project Network designed to identify high-quality materials aligned to the CCSS. UDL is a framework and set of principles intended to guide the design of inclusive classroom instruction and ensures that course materials are accessible for all learners. The EQuIP alignment process and UDL principles will be used to ensure the highest quality CCSS practices. For more information, please visit: EQuIP: <http://www.achieve.org/EQuIP> and UDL: <http://www.cast.org/udl/>.

Quality submissions endorsed and rewarded

After being vetted against the EQuIP rubric and UDL principles, exemplary lesson and unit plans will be included on the Educator Resource Exchange (njcore.org) for the benefit of other NJ educators. The exemplary lesson and unit plans will be identified with an insignia that represents state-endorsed distinction.

- A teacher or team of teachers contributing a *lesson* plan that earns an exemplary score will receive an award of \$200.00, an official endorsement of their lesson plan, and state recognition.
- A teacher or team of teachers contributing a *unit* plan that earns an exemplary score will receive an award of \$500.00, an official endorsement of their unit plan, and state recognition.

Plan submission Practicing teachers interested in submitting a lesson or unit plan for consideration of a Common Core Model Lesson/Unit Award must complete the application on the NJDOE home page (<http://www.state.nj.us/education/>). The purpose of the application template is to collect model lesson and unit plans in a consistent structure for review, vetting and posting. The format can be used in the development of local practices but is not a state requirement for local use. Teachers of any grade level and content area who have improved student achievement by integrating the CCSS into their original lessons are encouraged to submit their work as exemplars. Applications must include all requested information. It is advised that all lesson or unit plans be aligned with the EQuIP rubrics and UDL principles prior to submission. (<http://www.achieve.org/EQuIP>)

Email questions to: unitlesson@doe.state.nj.us.

VI. National Urban League announces “Putting our Children 1st: Common Core for Common Goals” <http://www.iamempowered.com/common-core-state-standards>

The National Urban League, along with the Los Angeles Urban League, the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, the Urban League of Greater Cleveland and the Urban League of Middle Tennessee announced the launch of an education campaign designed to inform parents about Common Core State Standards, what they are and what they mean for students. The campaign will also provide parents with vital tools and resources they need to ensure that their children successfully transition to and receive the full benefits of these high-quality academic standards in English language arts and mathematics. The campaign provides information to help bridge the education achievement gap and create a level playing field for all students to excel regardless of family income, ethnicity or where they live.

<http://nul.iamempowered.com/content/put-our-children-1st-common-core-common-goals-campaign-teaches-parents-about-new-education>

VII. NJCore.org

Have you visited www.njcore.org lately? It is New Jersey’s first-ever statewide online PLC! With more than 2,000 Common Core aligned resources, njcore.org offers free teaching and learning tools to download for use in instruction and professional development. But it does not stop there! Teachers can upload Common Core-aligned lessons to share with fellow educators. See how simple it is by watching this “help” video: <http://njcore.org/help-videos>

VIII. 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.

Mathematics PD

- **Grades 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 examine a wide range of topics from grades 6-12 and learn instructional strategies focused on a variety of model types.

The intended audience is 6-12 math teachers, supervisors and coaches.

May 14, 2014 – Trenton – [6-12 Modeling - Central](#)

May 19, 2014 – Branchburg - [6-12 Modeling - North](#)

May 20, 2014 – Galloway – [6-12 Modeling - South](#)

ELA PD

- **Writing and the Common Core**

Participants will explore writing strategies to meet the rigor and expectations of the CCSS for ELA. The workshop will also address the writing expectations for PARCC assessments.

For K-5 teachers:

June 2, 2014 – Trenton – [Writing and the Common Core K-5](#)

June 5, 2014 – East Orange – [Writing and the Common Core K-5](#)

June 5, 2014 – Mullica Hill – [Writing and the Common Core K-5](#)

For 6-12 teachers:

June 11, 2014 – Mullica Hill – [Writing and the Common Core 6-12](#)

June 12, 2014 – Trenton – [Writing and the Common Core 6-12](#)

June 12 – East Orange – [Writing and the Common Core 6-12](#)

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

Tracey Severns, Ed.D.
Chief Academic Officer

	<p>Do you know someone who isn't receiving these?</p> <p>Forward this to a colleague and encourage them to sign-up! http://education.state.nj.us/ccit/subscribe.php</p>
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	<p>Missed any CCIT mailings?</p> <p>Find previous mailings at: http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/team/ccit.pdf</p>
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How else can we help you?

Send us an e-mail at njcore@doe.state.nj.us



Have you visited our site lately?

<http://njcore.org/>

To sign up for Monthly Newsletters please register for on NJCore.org

<http://njcore.org/user/register>

**NJCore.org
What's Trending?**

	Month (April)	Since Launch
Number of Registered Educators	44	1,872
Number of Visitors	6,133	62,179
Top 5 Districts	#1	Trenton
	#2	Passaic
	#3	Bayonne
	#4	Paterson
	#5	Mount Laurel