

October 2014 Monthly Resources:



Dear Common Core Implementation Team Member,

I hope you find this CCIT blast full of helpful ideas and inspiration as Common Core learning continues at a higher level for staff and students around the state.

As you know, Commissioner Hespe has announced his Common Core outreach campaign, which was launched with a “Basics of the Common Core” webinar and a new “Common Core Resources for Educators” toolkit designed to support district conversations with parents regarding the CCSS. Emil Carafa, a principal from Lodi Public Schools, and I were excited to be the presenters in the September 18th webinar hosted by NJ Spotlight.

In addition to the Common Core presentation and toolkit, this blast offers news of a Rutgers University professor’s blog on Common Core-aligned young readers’ literature, NJEA’s two - page template for unpeeling any CCSS standard for lesson and unit planning, updates on standards implementation around the nation, news you can use from other states and free NJDOE professional development opportunities.

As always, I thank you for your continued dedication to New Jersey’s students!



I. General Common Core Resources

- **NJDOE Common Core Toolkit for Educators**

In mid-September, Commissioner Hespe announced his statewide Common Core campaign along with a “Common Core Toolkit for Educators” for districts to utilize as they reach out to parents, guardians and the community at large. The Toolkit’s informational materials are designed to facilitate communication with the public based on facts and clear language for better understanding about the standards.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/toolkit/>

- **NJ Educator Resource Exchange (www.njcore.org)**

The latest newsletter from the NJ Educator Resource Exchange (NJCore.org) is now available at this site. See what's new in terms of curricular and other resources to support implementation of the Common Core State Standards. Remember that NJCore.org welcomes uploads of NJ educators' common core-aligned lessons!

<http://eepurl.com/38mOH>

- **Dig into the Standards: Template for Unpeeling/Unpacking the CCSS**

In June, the New Jersey Educator Leader Cadre (ELC) presented a series of workshops on the Common Core State Standards and PARCC for New Jersey educators. On the website below, find resources from all the day's sessions as well as Dr. Amy Fratz' PowerPoint and booklet, "Dig into the Standards: Peeling (Unpacking) the Common Core State Standards." On Pages 35-36 of this booklet, she includes a template for "unpacking" the ELA and Mathematics standards.

(See: **Peeling and Unpacking the Common Core State Standards**)

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/resources/leader/resources/>

- **The Uncommon Corps**

Dr. Marc Aronson, author and publisher of books for young readers, as well as a professor at the Rutgers University School of Information and Library Science, founded "The Uncommon Corps" as a resource on nonfiction in the English Language Arts and Content Literacy standards. He and his colleagues wanted to provide access to kid-friendly, standards-based instructional ideas as schools transition to the CCSS. Professional development opportunities are also posted on this site.

<http://nonfictionandthecommoncore.blogspot.com/>

II.



Evaluation Tools for Common Core Curriculum Materials

-  **Louisiana's Annotated Reviews of Common Core - Aligned Curriculum**

Student Achievement Partners (SAP) recently offered a webinar on the use of the IMET (Instructional Materials Alignment Tool) created by Achieve and the CCSSO. The presenters noted that Louisiana had utilized the IMET and shared annotated reviews of many curriculum materials on their website for others to access. IMET can be used for evaluating a comprehensive textbook or textbook series for alignment to the Shifts and major features of the CCSS with ELA/literacy materials for K-2 or 3-12 and for mathematics materials K-8 or high school.

<http://www.louisianabelieves.com/academics/instructional-materials-review/curricular-resources-annotated-reviews>

III.



Further Reading on the Common Core

- **NJ Spotlight article on Commissioner Hespe's Common Core Campaign**

In this article, Commissioner Hespe talks about his campaign to educate the larger community about the Common Core State Standards and how the NJDOE will support the outreach with tools and resources for school districts and professional organizations.

<http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/14/09/03/education-chief-kicks-off-campaign-to-explain-common-core-standards/>

- **Asbury Park Press article by Pat Wright: Common Core Embraced by NJ Educators**

Patricia Wright, Executive Director of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association (NJPSA), wrote this opinion explaining her organization's ongoing support for implementation of the CCSS. She sees the new ELA and Mathematics standards as "another step along New Jersey's pathway to high academic achievement and expanded educational opportunity" for all students.

<http://www.app.com/story/opinion/columnists/2014/09/16/wright-common-core-embraced-nj-educators/15722635/>

- **Learning Forward Executive Director Stephanie Hirsh Responds to Recent Polls**

In this piece, Ms. Hirsch advocates for the CCSS as higher learning standards for students as well as higher professional standards for teachers. She outlines Learning Forward's Standards for Professional Learning, created to elevate teaching practices and improve student results.

http://learningforward.org/docs/default-source/pdf/8-22-14_CommonCore.pdf

- **Associated Press article on 50-State Look at How Common Core is Playing Out in USA**

This article is an overview of the state – by - state implementation of the Common Core State Standards. Information is also provided on states which have not adopted the CCSS.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/50-state-look-how-common-core-playing-out-us>

- **Education Commission of the States(ECS) Press Release on CCSS**

This organization was recently mentioned in a DOE Broadcast by Peter Renwick, Principal at Westfield High School, who was appointed by Governor Christie as an ECS Commissioner. He described the ECS as a nonpartisan association which tracks state policy trends, provides advice, and offers an opportunity for members to share information and best practices in Pre - K through college.

<http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/14/21/11421.pdf>

IV.



Webinars and Other Broadcasts

- **NJ Spotlight Webinar: Basics of the Common Core**

NJ Spotlight is a nonpartisan, independent news website offering a forum for airing issues of importance to New Jersey's communities, including education. Along with a blog and articles, they produce webinars such as this one which ran September 18, with NJDOE Chief Academic Officer Kimberley Harrington and Emil Carafa, a former president of NJPSA and current principal in Lodi, New Jersey. The presenters offered basic CCSS information, including the changes administrators, teachers and students are experiencing as they learn the new standards.

<http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/14/09/21/an-nj-spotlight-webinar-the-basics-of-the-common-core/>

- **American RadioWorks' Greater Expectations: The Challenge of the Common Core**

American RadioWorks is the national documentary unit of American Public Media. This one-hour WNYC radio broadcast aired in late August 2014 and focuses on why teachers support the Common Core State Standards. The program provides in - depth interviews with teachers discussing why they supported adoption, how implementation is working, and their concerns about the CCSS.

<http://www.wnyc.org/story/greater-expectations-challenge-common-core/>

- **Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) MidAtlantic Webinar Series**

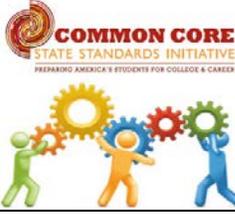
The Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) MidAtlantic is a source of education research and technical assistance for northeastern states, working with several education-focused organizations, including the Rutgers University Center for Effective School Practices, and partially funded through the USDOE. They offer access to educational policy and practice related to pre - K through college education. This website lists the webinars for 2014 - 2015 including those relevant to the implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

https://www.relmidatlantic.org/sites/default/files/general_uploads/RELMidAtlantic_Webinar%20Catalog_Fall_Winter2014_8.5x11_Released_508c.pdf

V.  **NJDOE Professional Development Opportunities**

Here is an example of an October session you may wish to register for:

- October 21, 2014 – Modeling in Grades 6-12 – South
<http://education.state.nj.us/events/details.php?recid=21346>



Do you know someone who isn't receiving these?

Forward this to a colleague and encourage them to sign-up!
<http://education.state.nj.us/ccit/subscribe.php>.



Missed any CCIT mailings?

Find previous mailings at:
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/team/>



How else can we help you?

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

NJCore.org
What's Trending?
[\(http://njcore.org/\)](http://njcore.org/)

	Month (September)	Since Launch
Number of Registered Educators	146	2168
Number of Visitors	7,871	88,953
Top 5 Districts	#1	Trenton
	#2	Passaic
	#3	Bayonne
	#4	Newark
	#5	Paterson