

December 2014 Monthly Resources:



Dear Common Core Implementation Team Member,

December is here!

I appreciate the ongoing work in districts around the state to help parents and community members understand more about what and how their children are learning through Common Core–aligned lessons and units. This is an important endeavor, especially as we move closer to the PARCC assessments.

Please continue to share information on any programs you have planned, and send your ideas for tailoring the CCIT blast to njcore@doe.state.nj.us:

- What do you find most valuable in the CCIT resources?
- What changes would you like to see in the CCIT blast?
- What successes and lessons learned would you like to share about CCSS and PARCC parent information sessions your district has held?

Thanks for all you continue to do for students!

Kimberley Harrington, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Academics



General Common Core Resources

- **NJ Educator Resource Exchange: What's New in December?**

Check the NJCore.org site for the latest uploads of lesson and unit plans aligned to the Common Core submitted by your colleagues across the state.

www.njcore.org

- **OpenEd Common Core App Links Assessment and Free Learning Resources**

Technological Horizons in Education (THE) Journal is a website focused on “transforming education through technology.” A current article announces a new “Common Core Quest” app linking assessment and free learning resources from OpenEd, a K-12 online library of instructional materials. The app “provides full coverage to all math and language arts standards in grade six and above, and partial coverage for elementary grades.” Note: Most of OpenEd’s content is free, but access to some requires a paid subscription.

<http://thejournal.com/articles/2014/09/22/common-core-app-links-assessment-and-free-learning-resources.aspx>

- **PARCC presents a series of online professional learning modules**

To assist administrators, teachers and testing coordinators in districts, PARCC is presenting a series of online professional learning modules designed to help staff better understand the PARCC Assessment System. The modules will “help educators learn how to read results from the assessment, make inferences about the results, and identify learning gaps in time to make relevant instructional decisions and modifications.”

<http://www.parcconline.org/professional-learning-modules-parcc-assessments>



Further Reading on the Common Core

- **Hechinger Report article on what makes a good CCSS math question?**

This article, which includes comments from NJ teachers attending the October 2014 Association of Mathematics Teachers of NJ conference, focuses on developing good Common Core mathematics questions. The answer involves providing enough ambiguity to prompt creative thinking in student problem-solving.

http://hechingerreport.org/content/makes-good-common-core-math-question_17841/

- **Education Week Blog - Learning Deeply on Common Core Mathematics**

In this post, Robert Rothman addresses the ‘Frustrated Parent’ who wrote to complain about a Common Core mathematics problem. Rothman suggests, as another Education Week author noted, such problems may not be due to Common Core, but to problems with the written curriculum. Moreover, he suggests the parent may want to reconsider his complaint as the problem in question illustrates “a key aspect of the Common Core, and why the standards can help students learn mathematics more deeply.”

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/learning_deeply/2014/11/frustrated_parent_understanding_and_fluency_are_both_important.html?cmp=ENL-EU-NEWS3

- **Renaissance Learning 2015 Report - *What Kids Are Reading***

Renaissance Learning produces an annual report on "*What Kids Are Reading*" which summarizes US students' reading habits including how much they read (both fiction and nonfiction) and the complexity of their reading materials. One finding is that "students are reading more nonfiction, but not as much as Common Core standards recommend, and their reading tends to be far less challenging than it should be to prepare them for college or careers."

<https://www.renaissance.com/whatkidsarereading>



Webinars, Broadcasts & Video Clips

- **edWeb.net free webinars**

The edWeb.net site offers a free online network for K-12 and higher education educators, administrators and librarians “to collaborate, share ideas, and move forward faster with new ideas and initiatives, particularly those that leverage technology to accelerate improvement.”

<http://home.edweb.net/upcoming-webinars/>

- **Achieve and Teaching Channel announce next video in planned series**

This site provides access to Achieve and Teacher Channel video exploring Achieve’s Evaluating Quality Instructional Products (EQuIP) initiative. The video, which is available for free on Teaching Channel’s website, and introduces the Student Work Protocol for strengthening Common Core-aligned lessons.

<http://www.achieve.org/achieve-and-teaching-channel-launch-new-equip-video>



NJDOE Professional Development Opportunities

- Find listings of free NJDOE professional development for December 2014 at our Calendar of Events: <http://education.state.nj.us/events/>

 <p>COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS INITIATIVE PREPARING AMERICA'S STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE & CAREER</p>	<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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	<p>How else can we help you?</p> <p>Send us an e-mail at njcore@doe.state.nj.us</p>
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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 (November)	Since Launch
Number of Registered Educators	5	2,059
Number of Visitors	8,091	108,913
Top 5 Districts	Trenton	Trenton
	Newark	Passaic
	Jersey City	Bayonne
	Egg Harbor Township	Newark
	Brick	Paterson