

## March 2015 Monthly Resources:



### Dear Common Core Implementation Team Member,

With the PARCC assessments here, I imagine you might be feeling somewhat overwhelmed with test administration and related scheduling tasks. As professionals, we know the PARCC will give us more meaningful data for more effective teaching and learning, but we also know first “run-throughs” can bring both excitement and challenges!

Thank you for your persistence and patience as PARCC testing and other critical student academic work continues through March. We hope the resources in this CCIT blast provide you with valuable support, and, as always, look forward to getting your helpful suggestions at [njcore@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:njcore@doe.state.nj.us)

Kimberley Harrington, Chief Academic Officer, Division of Academics



### General Common Core Resources

- **NJ Educator Resource Exchange (NJCore.org)**

What’s new at NJCore.org? A website redesign is underway by NJDOE’s Michael Giampietro, newly assigned to oversee exciting improvements to the NJ Educator Resource Exchange—based on your insightful feedback! While changes are planned, you can still access thousands of exemplary Common Core-aligned lessons and other resources, as well as see what colleagues and the “Featured Educators” are uploading. Please continue to give us your valuable input at [njcore@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:njcore@doe.state.nj.us) and stay tuned for more updates!

[www.njcore.org](http://www.njcore.org)

- **NJASCD’s *The Front Page* covers Highlights from PARCC Leadership Summit**

In the winter 2015 issue of *The Front Page*, Marie Adair, Executive Director of NJASCD, shares eight “essential messages” from the PARCC Leadership Summit held January 21<sup>st</sup> and hosted by NJASCD, NJPSA/FEA, NJDOE and PARCC, Inc. Find the newsletter, as well as links to the various presenters’ PowerPoints and hand-outs on the NJASCD website.

<http://c2.njascd.schoolwires.net/Page/146>

- **GeoGebra Website with Common Core-Aligned Mathematics Materials**

The GeoGebra website offers “...dynamic mathematics software for all levels of education that brings together geometry, algebra, spreadsheets, graphing, statistics and calculus...” for use by educators, students and schools. The site includes free and interactive materials with downloads available for tablets, desktops and phones.

<http://www.geogebra.org/about>

- **Student Achievement Partners’ (SAP) *In Common* K-12 Student Writing Samples**

*In Common* is a SAP website tool providing a range of K-12 student writing samples from classrooms around the country. The samples are offered as exemplars of “good student work aligned to the Common Core” across all three types of writing required by the ELA standards. Educators can use the samples in collaborative planning for writing instruction.

<http://achievethecore.org/page/507/in-common-effective-writing-for-all-students>



### **Financial Literacy and the Common Core Standards**

- **Money As You Learn Website: Integrating Financial Literacy and Common Core**

This website offers educators free resources for integrating financial literacy skills as part of the Common Core ELA and Mathematics standards. The authors suggest this strategy provides student learning through “real-world contexts and applications” and strengthens “cross-cutting skills such as problem-solving, research, and analysis called for in the Common Core.”

<http://www.moneyasyoulearn.org/what/>



### **Across the USA with CCSS and PARCC**

- ***CCSS Forward* offers State Spotlights on Common Core Implementation**

Stay abreast of Common Core implementation “success stories” across the country by checking this website by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). Link to monthly webinars and newsletters for updates on what’s happening in various states and school districts.

[http://www.ccsso.org/CCSS\\_Forward\\_State\\_Resources\\_and\\_Success\\_Stories\\_to\\_Implement\\_the\\_Common\\_Core/State\\_Implementation\\_Spotlights.html](http://www.ccsso.org/CCSS_Forward_State_Resources_and_Success_Stories_to_Implement_the_Common_Core/State_Implementation_Spotlights.html)

- **PARCC Online offers “News and Updates”**

The current PARCC “News and Updates” site includes articles on the people hired to score the new assessments and the official launch of PARCC testing in several states, including New Jersey. See also the recent Opt-Ed piece by NJ’s Commissioner David Hespe advocating for participation in PARCC, as well as a link to new parent resources designed by educators for communicating and understanding PARCC benefits.

<http://www.parcconline.org/news>

- **NJDOE Webpage on Assessment - PARCC**

Continue to check the Department’s new Assessment - PARCC website for the latest statewide information and resources. Find materials from the Commissioner’s 2015 Symposium with Superintendents, as well as guidance for parents and tools shared by NJ school districts to support greater understanding of PARCC and testing outcomes.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/symposium/>



## Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

- **National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Parent Guide on NGSS**

The NSTA has prepared a Parent Guide to the Next Generation Science Standards which will be implemented in New Jersey in school year 2018-2019. The document provides an overview and addresses questions regarding development of the new standards and how they will impact student learning in the sciences. In addition to the Parent Guide, NSTA posts a newsletter each month with updates on NGSS.

<http://www.nsta.org/docs/NGSSParentGuide.pdf>

<http://www.nextgenscience.org/february-ngss-now-newsletter>



## Audio-Visual: FREE Webinars, Videos and Apps

- **New! eSchool News article on Nine Free Apps for Common Core Scaffolding**

This article focuses on nine free apps which can be utilized by educators when helping students navigate informational and literary texts as part of ELA Common Core-aligned lessons. The author suggests the apps can assist teachers with knowing “where students will need scaffolding as well as the type of scaffolding appropriate for the activity.”

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/2015/02/09/free-scaffolding-apps-182/>

- **School Improvement Network Webinars**  
<http://www.schoolimprovement.com/resources/webinars/>
- **CCSSO Implement the Common Core Standards (ICCS) Webinars**  
[http://www.ccsso.org/CCSS\\_Forward\\_State\\_Resources\\_and\\_Success\\_Stories\\_to\\_Implement\\_the\\_Common\\_Core/Webinars\\_and\\_Newsletters.html](http://www.ccsso.org/CCSS_Forward_State_Resources_and_Success_Stories_to_Implement_the_Common_Core/Webinars_and_Newsletters.html)
- **edWeb.net Webinars**  
<http://home.edweb.net/upcoming-webinars/>
- **ASCD Webinars**  
<http://www.ascd.org/professional-development/webinars.aspx>
- **Education Week Webinars**  
<http://www.edweek.org/ew/marketplace/webinars/webinars.html?intc=thed>



## **YOU are a CCSS and PARCC Resource!**

- ***ASCD Express* Invites Content for June 11<sup>th</sup> Issue: Feedback for Impact**

*ASCD Express* is a free e-newsletter published twice monthly with “practical, actionable strategies and information” written by and for practitioners. Editors are now accepting 600-1,000 word essays or 10-minute multimedia pieces for the June 11<sup>th</sup> issue on “feedback” defined as “the bridge between teacher observations and student action.” Find key questions to guide content and instructions on submission. Due date is March 15, 2015.

<http://www.ascd.org/ascd-express/Themes/Write-for-ASCD-Express.aspx#themes>

- ***ASCD Educational Leadership* Seeks Articles for Future Issues**

*ASCD Educational Leadership* is a journal published monthly with an online issue covering June through August. The editors are currently looking for articles to appear in the Summer 2015 Online Issue with the theme of “Improving Schools from Within.” Scroll down the webpage below to Summer 2015 and find information on the desired content, format and submission instructions for articles which are due by March 15, 2015.

<http://www.ascd.org/Publications/Educational-Leadership/Upcoming-Themes.aspx>

- **EdReports.org Still Seeking 2015 Content Review Team Members**

EdReports.org is a nonprofit organization seeking experienced educators to write reviews of Common Core–aligned Mathematics and ELA curricular materials to share on their website. Applications are still being considered on a rolling basis.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CRTedReports>



## **Further Reading**

- ***New! Best Foot Forward Website Launched as Initiative of We Raise NJ***

As stated on the website, Best Foot Forward is “an initiative of a movement powered by the NJ Parent Teacher Association (NJPTA) and our New Jersey education partners...created to address the growing number of questions from parents about PARCC and to help them make informed decisions about how to best support their child.” The website provides free resources, access to education news and other helpful tools for parents.

<http://bestfootforwardnj.org/#>

- ***New! Great Schools’ Website on K-5 Milestones for Parents***

The non-profit organization, GreatSchools, offers profiles of more than 200,000 schools serving preK-12 students across the nation. Their GreatKids website includes Milestones, an online collection of more than 120 free videos providing a “personalized education guide” for parents. Available in both English and Spanish, the videos demonstrate what Common Core grade level expectations should look like for their K-5 students.

<http://www.greatschools.org/gk/milestones/>

- ***Edutopia Blog on “Five Fantastic, Fast, Formative Assessment Tools”***

Vicki Davis, a teacher and blogger on Edutopia suggests that “good formative assessment removes the embarrassment of public hand raising and gives teachers feedback that impacts how they're teaching at that moment.” In this article she reviews five free online assessment tools she has found effective in various classroom situations.

<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/5-fast-formative-assessment-tools-vicki-davis>

- ***Right Question Institute on the Question Formulation Technique (QFT)***

Common Core ELA and Mathematics standards require students to think and question for deeper understanding. The Right Question Institute is a nonprofit website advocating for people of all ages to be more effective at creating and asking questions. For educators, the directors offer the QFT strategy and resources to encourage students to ask questions and build off those of their peers during discussions. Register for free to access resources.

<http://rightquestion.org/education/>

- ***NJDOE’s The Bridge newsletter offers NJ educators CCSS and PARCC news***

Check this website each month for *The Bridge* newsletter written for NJ K-12 educators. Each issue offers relevant and updated information on Common Core standards and PARCC assessments, as well as other information related to the profession.

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



## **Professional Development Opportunities**

- Find free NJDOE professional development offerings at our Calendar of Events.

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

- Find many free and online professional development events on Education Week's online calendar.

[http://www.edweek.org/apps/calendar/search\\_events.html](http://www.edweek.org/apps/calendar/search_events.html)

 <p><b>COMMON CORE</b> STATE STANDARDS INITIATIVE <small>PREPARING AMERICA'S STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE &amp; CAREER</small></p>	<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="http://education.state.nj.us/ccit/subscribe.php">http://education.state.nj.us/ccit/subscribe.php</a>.</p>
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	<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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	<p><b>How else can we help you?</b></p> <p>Send us an e-mail at <a href="mailto:njcore@doe.state.nj.us">njcore@doe.state.nj.us</a></p>
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**NJCore.org**  
**What's Trending?**

**New Features & Content on NJCORE.ORG (<http://njcore.org/>)**

- Badge awards for resource contributions levels.
- Featured content area on homepage

	<b>Month (February)</b>	<b>Since Launch</b>
<b>Number of Registered Educators</b>	2	2,076
<b>Number of Visitors</b>	8,081	131,574
<b>Top 5 Districts</b>	Newark	Trenton
	Trenton	Passaic
	Brick	Bayonne
	Wayne	Newark
	Jersey City	Jersey City