



August 2015



Common Core Implementation Team Blast

Dear Colleagues,

While summer is still in the air, I know changes are already underway in your classrooms and schools. We are all preparing to greet new students with new challenges and new ways of learning. Our Division is changing, too! At their July 8th meeting, the NJ State Board of Education approved a reorganization of the Department and a new name for us: we are now the Division of Teaching and Learning. Our redesign is all about serving you and your students better!

One of the newly created offices within the Division is the Office of Teaching and Learning Support, directed by Robin Knutelsky and her team of education specialists. They will continue providing this monthly blast to support your work and professional learning. We will be seeking your input as to what impactful resources and tools you need for classroom instruction aligned to all the NJ academic standards.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and stay tuned for more changes in September!

Kimberley Harrington, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Teaching and Learning



New Jersey Collaborative Online Resource Exchange (NJ CORE)

Have you looked into participating in the “relaunch” of the New Jersey Collaborative Online Resource Exchange or NJ CORE this fall? It’s not too late to join a workgroup to experience the new features of the site, rate resources for colleagues, and preview new Professional Learning Modules. Before the school year begins, collect, share and peruse new resources for the coming year! For more information about the group and meeting dates, contact **Lisa McClintock** at lisa.mcclintock@doe.state.nj.us



NJDOE’s New Webpage on New Jersey Standards Review

The Department has created a new webpage detailing information on the process by which NJ’s academic standards in English language arts and mathematics will be reviewed this school year. See a description of the review procedure as well as how members of the Standards Review Committee and subcommittees will be selected.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/standards/>

**English Language Arts and Mathematics:**

- **Five Ideas to Spark Independent Reading by Students**

A school librarian in Connecticut suggests five strategies to encourage students' independent reading in school, home and as a lifetime practice. The ideas listed come from a survey of her colleagues in school districts around the country (including Parsippany-Troy Hills in New Jersey) and include ways to “promote independent reading at every grade level.”

<http://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2015/07/22/five-clever-ideas-to-spark-independent-reading-by-kids/>

- **Using Doodling to Help Memories Stick**

Instructional coaches in a public school district learned that doodling can improve memory and introduced the practice to colleagues and their students. According to research, when ideas and related concepts are captured in an image, the brain recalls information associated with that image. The practice also makes student learning visible and provides a formative assessment tool.

<http://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2015/07/15/making-learning-visible-doodling-helps-memories-stick/>

- **Achieve the Core's Common Core Knowledge and Practice Survey**

Achieve the Core has developed a Common Core Knowledge and Practice Survey to allow educators to test their understandings and implementation of the standards. The survey is designed for use in a PLC setting to “spark conversation, identify areas for growth, and offer concrete ways for teams of teachers to continue to align their practice to the Shifts.”

<http://achievethecore.org/page/1104/common-core-knowledge-and-practice-survey-detail-pg>

- **Professional Learning Communities and Number Talks**

In this blog, an elementary teacher from Washington State seeks advice from her colleague in Delaware on including Number Talks in PLC's and the classroom. Educators in Delaware have implemented Number Talks with students and suggest what expectations might be for teachers using this classroom practice.

<https://www.teachingchannel.org/blog/2015/07/23/plc-leadership-number-talks-gbt/>

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM):

- **Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) July 2015 NOW newsletter**

Find the current NGSS NOW newsletter at this site with stories on standards adoption and implementation in various states, as well as lessons learned and shared insights.

<http://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/July2015NGSSNOW.pdf>

- **The New Media Consortium (NMC) Horizon Report on K-12 Technology Trends**

This report on the future of K-12 technology trends was a combined project of the NMC and the Consortium for School Networking. The intent was to have experts look at key trends, challenges and developments in educational technology. The research findings could help “inform the choices that institutions are making about technology to improve, support or extend teaching, learning and creative inquiry in K-12 education across the globe.”

<http://www.nmc.org/publication/nmc-horizon-report-2015-k-12-edition/>

- **T.H.E. Journal Article on Videoconferencing Technology in the Classroom**

This article is an overview of six ways video technology is changing the opportunities for learning in classrooms from Alaska to Ohio. The author describes how each school district is “finding an increasing number of innovative ways to bring students together virtually for meaningful interactions, whether for one-time field trips or more extensive long-term collaboration.”

<http://thejournal.com/Articles/2015/06/17/6-Ways-Videoconferencing-Is-Expanding-the-Classroom.aspx>



Spotlight on Local NJ Districts

Toms River Regional School District Announces First Jersey Shore Makerfest – October 17th

On Saturday, October 17, 2015, Toms River Regional School District, in partnership with the NJ Department of Education, will host the first Jersey Shore Makerfest. The organizers describe this event as “a celebration of creativity and imagination that is a workshop, science lab, county fair, and art exhibition rolled into one.” At the website below, find more information and preregister for free.

<http://www.trschools.com/makerfest/>

Bergen County High School Teacher Mixes Hip Hop Artistry with Common Core Learning

English teacher Brian Mooney, at Bergen County's High Tech High School, combines his hip hop studies with teaching strategies "especially geared toward the Common Core standards mandate for close reading and textual inferences." Recently, through social media, his innovative instructional techniques caught the attention of Grammy-winner rapper Kendrick Lamar who visited the school and worked with Mooney's students.

http://www.nj.com/hudson/index.ssf/2015/06/rapper_kendrick_lamar_visits_nj_high_school.html



Teaching and Learning Across the States

Denver Public Schools Introduce "imaginarium" for New Ideas in Teaching

Denver Public Schools recently introduced a laboratory approach to test new ideas in teaching and learning for educators and students. The three-week program known as "imaginarium" included projects "focused on personalized learning, a summer lab academy, a peer-to-peer learning program for district and charter school teachers, and a competency-based arts program."

<http://co.chalkbeat.org/2015/06/24/in-dps-imaginarium-room-to-experiment-for-students-and-teachers/#.VYwXZP3bLjo>

PARCC

PARTNERSHIP FOR ASSESSMENT OF READINESS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREERS

- **PARCC Online offers "News and Updates"**

Changes are planned for PARCC tests in the next school year. Check this website regularly for news and updates on the assessments.

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

- **NJDOE Memo on Revised 2015-2016 Test Schedule for PARCC and more**

In this recent memo, Assistant Commissioner Bari Anhalt Erlichson provides districts with information on the changes to the 2015-2016 school year testing calendar for PARCC, NJASK, NJBCT, APA, and DLM assessments. Questions are welcomed by the Office of Assessments, at assessment@doe.state.nj.us.

<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2015/JUN/16/13771/revised%20testing%20window%20memo.pdf>



FREE Summer Webinars



CCSSO Implement the Common Core Standards (ICCS) Webinars

http://www.ccsso.org/CCSS_Forward_State_Resources_and_Success_Stories_to_Implement_the_Comm_on_Core/Webinars_and_Newsletters.html



ASCD Webinars

<http://www.ascd.org/professional-development/webinars.aspx>



edWeb Webinars

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



Further (Midsummer) Reading

- **District Administration Article on Neuroscience and Building Student Brain Power**

In this article, authors describe how a school district might “deploy the science of learning to engage students, close achievement gaps and overcome disabilities.” The focus is on how district professionals can utilize neuroscience to identify better intervention strategies for students and target professional learning for educators. Recent developments in brain research have “debunked some popular modern education concepts but reinforced others as more is understood about how learning changes the brain physically.”

<http://www.districtadministration.com/article/neuroscience-builds-students-brain-power>

- **Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Mid-Atlantic July 2015 Newsletter**

REL Mid-Atlantic, which includes New Jersey, “provides (a) research alliances with states, districts, and charter schools and (b) direct responses to requests from the public.” RELs are partially funded through the USDOE and partner with various universities, including Rutgers University, to help stakeholders make informed choices about educational policy and practice. The July 2015 newsletter gives an overview of events, research and free webinars.

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs108/1109364104652/archive/1121674950614.html>

- **Hechinger Report on Digitally Enhanced Books**

This article describes changes that are taking place in the world of children’s book publishing which alter the way readers experience authors’ texts and illustrations. While some writers and researchers struggle with these developments in the field, students and parents may find more reasons to pick up a book at school or home.

<http://hechingerreport.org/books-that-snap-crackle-buzz-and-sing/>

- **Student Insights Guiding Districts on Policy and Practice**

This article describes the work of two districts in seeking student input on school policy and practice. Researchers claim benefits for all stakeholders when students' experiences and opinions are included in decisions. For the students themselves, “participation leads to increased engagement and a chance to build social and emotional skills like self-advocacy.”

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2015/06/03/student-insights-guiding-districts-on-policy-and.html>

- **Middleweb Blog article: Teachers Really Need to Work with Families**

In this blog piece, Amber Rain Chandler, a middle school language arts teacher in NY State, talks about communication tools and strategies she has utilized to build rapport with parents. At first, outreach to families scared her and then, once she sent her own child to school, she realized that most parents just want “to know what your classroom feels and looks like, what the expectations are, what your pet peeves are, how is their child really doing, is s/he fitting in?”

<http://www.middleweb.com/23377/teachers-really-need-to-work-with-families/>

- **US News & World Report Article on Inspiring Students to Take High Level Math Classes**

The author of this article suggests high school math teachers should think about how to engage more students in higher mathematics, including calculus. With the US team winning the International Mathematical Olympiad this summer, he hopes more students will be encouraged and inspired to sign up for higher level math classes.

<http://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/high-school-notes/2015/07/20/3-ideas-for-high-school-math-teachers-to-explore-this-summer>

- **2015 Teachers of the Year Describe Factors They Believe Impact Student Achievement**

In a survey by the Council of Chief State School Officers and Scholastic Inc, 2015, State Teachers of the Year were asked about “barriers to student success as part of a broad survey of their views on public education.” The teachers ranked family stress as the greatest barrier, followed by poverty, then learning and psychological problems.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/poverty-family-stress-are-thwarting-student-success-top-teachers-say/2015/05/19/17f2e35a-fe3c-11e4-833c-a2de05b6b2a4_story.html



YOU are a Professional Resource!

- ***ASCD Express Invites Content for October and November Issues***

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 written material for the October 22 edition on “Staying Centered,” and the November 12 edition on “Doing Data Right.” At the website below, scroll down to these respective months for guidelines on content and submission deadlines.

<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 monthly journal. The editors are currently looking for articles to appear in the February 2016 issue with a focus on “Helping ELLs Excel.” At the website below, scroll down to February for more information on content and submission deadline.

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



FREE Professional Development Opportunities

- **NJDOE Calendar of Events**

The Department invites you to register for August workshops on a variety of topics from pre-school to college readiness for students.

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

- **NJDOE offers EQUiP Training Statewide**

There is still time to attend professional learning sessions offered by the Department’s Office of STEM in August. The sessions are designed to build educator capacity in using the Educators Evaluating the Quality of Instructional Products (EQuIP) rubric for science. For more information, contact Science Coordinator, Michael Heinz, at Michael.heinz@doe.state.nj.us.



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>

	<p align="center">Missed any CCIT mailings?</p> <p align="center">Find previous mailings at:</p> <p align="center">http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/team/ccit/</p>
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	<p align="center">How else can we help you?</p> <p align="center">Send us an e-mail at njcore@doe.state.nj.us</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

	Month (July)	Since Launch
Number of Registered Educators	165	2,477
Number of Visitors	5,554	167,608
Top 5 Districts	Trenton	Trenton
	Bridgewater	Passaic
	Paterson	Paterson
	Newark	Newark
	Mt. Laurel	Bayonne
Number of Resources	1,298	4,838