

Office of Teaching & Learning Support *presents...*

Common Core Implementation Team (CCIT)



The Blast!

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to a new school year! Students have new teachers, teachers have new students, and the Division of Teaching and Learning has a new organizational structure working to support NJ educators.

On July 8th, the State Board of Education approved the Department's reorganization, along with a new title for our Division. We are now the Division of Teaching and Learning, a name which better reflects our commitment to all aspects of your work in and beyond the classroom.

The Division is now comprised of six offices and the Amistad and Italian and Italian American Heritage Commissions. Some offices are organized by grade spans and related content and others by overall purpose. For example, Robin Knutelsky directs the team for the Office of Teaching and Learning Support whose mission includes services that directly impact K-12 instructional practice and professional learning. Her team will deliver the CCIT Blast (with a new snazzier look!), launch an improved NJ Collaborative Online Resource Exchange (NJCORE), facilitate gatherings of the NJ Teachers Advisory Panel and other professionals to revamp the model curriculum, as well as create professional learning modules and other resources and support based on what we hear from educators like yourself. Stay tuned for news about other offices and how they are working hard to support you!

Enjoy the new school year and thank you for all you do to engage, excite, and inspire student learning!

Kimberley Harrington,

Chief Academic Officer

Division of Teaching and Learning



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Who's Who in the NEW! Division

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In the months ahead, we'll highlight the people and special projects in the Division's newly created offices which are focused on supporting your professional work. This month we invite you to view the Department's new organization chart, approved on July 8th by the State BOE, and the official overview of the Division's mission.

[View](#) NJDOE Organization Chart:

[View](#) Description of Division and Offices:

Division of Teaching and Learning

Kimberley Harrington,
Chief Academic Officer/Assistant
Commissioner

Office of Teaching & Learning Support

Robin Knutelsky, Director [\[email\]](#)

Division of Early Childhood Education

Ellen Wolock, Director [\[email\]](#)

Office of Primary Education

Vincent Costanza, Director [\[email\]](#)

Office of Intermediate & Secondary Education

Candace Kenyatta, Director [\[email\]](#)

Office of Career Readiness

Marie Barry, Director [\[email\]](#)

Office of Academic Initiatives & Fiscal Accountability

Karin Garver, Director [\[email\]](#)

New Jersey Amistad Commission

Stephanie Wilson, Executive Director [\[email\]](#)

New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission

Frederick Proulx, Executive Director [\[email\]](#)



New Jersey Standards Review

Update [\(top\)](#)

The Department is moving ahead with selecting members for the Standards Review Committee and subcommittees. Follow updates on the Department webpage which provides general information about the review process, timelines and meeting dates, as well as how and when input from stakeholders will be gathered.

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



New Jersey

Collaborative Online Resource Exchange

[\(top\)](#)

Exciting changes are ahead for NJCORE.org! Watch both *The Bridge* and *The Blast* for updates on improvements to NJ's first and only virtual professional learning community. For more information on what's ahead, [e-mail](#) Lisa McClintock, Content Manager for NJCORE at





Resources for NJ Academic Standards



ELA and Mathematics (top):

Using Visual Storytelling in ELA and Math

In this article, a technology integration coach in a Pennsylvania school district describes how she helped colleagues use the Shutterfly Photo Story app to teach lessons aligned to the Common Core ELA and math standards. She illustrates how this app was “a perfect fit to reach all grade levels...and improve literacy for all.”

<http://thejournal.com/articles/2015/08/17/using-visual-storytelling-to-teach-common-core-ela-and-math.aspx>

Study Shows HS Music Classes Can Enhance Literacy Skills

Findings in a small Northwestern University research study suggest that adolescents experience consistent growth in neurodevelopment when the curriculum includes music instruction. The significance may be that “music training initiated as late as adolescence can enhance neural processing of sound and confer benefits for language skills.”

<http://hechingerreport.org/small-study-shows-high-school-music-classes-improve-language-skills/>

Inspirational Math for First Days of School

Youcubed, a project of Standard University’s Graduate School of Education, offers five Common Core-aligned math lessons intended for use “the first week of school to inspire positive math mindsets.” Lessons can be tailored to various grade levels and include videos as well as user surveys.

<https://www.youcubed.org/week-of-inspirational-math/>



Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) (top)

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) August 2015 NOW newsletter

At the website below, find the current NGSS NOW newsletter with stories on standards adoption across the states. See the article (#5) highlighting the Summer Science Education Institute for NJ K-12 educators held in July at Raritan Valley Community College. The Institute was designed to introduce teachers to the new science standards and assist them in planning lessons aligned to the standards.

<http://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/August2015NGSSNOW.pdf>



Career & Technical Education (top)

New Guidelines for 2016 Perkins Grants

The Office of Career Readiness website provides an overview of the CTE standards as well as news and updates on related topics. The posted information also includes guidelines on the 2016 Perkins Grant.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/cte/perkins/>

Tips & Tools for Teaching Digital Citizenship

In this article, the author suggests educators need to teach their students digital citizenship, starting at early grade levels. To facilitate the process, he offers “four tips and four tools that will allow every educator to create lessons and units that can help make all students better digital citizens.”

<http://thejournal.com/articles/2015/08/04/8-tips-and-tools-for-teaching-digital-citizenship/>



Resources for Early Childhood ([top](#))

Launch of Early Learning Matters Newsletter

The Office of Primary Education has launched a quarterly newsletter with updates on programs and activities funded through the NJ Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant awarded to the Department in 2014. Find it at the website below.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/ece/rttt/newsletter/Summer15.pdf>



([top](#))

NJDOE Assessments website

Stay abreast of all the news and updates regarding statewide assessments, including PARCC, at this Department website.

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

PARCC Online Info on Score Reports

Find information on how to read PARCC score reports at the webpage below.

<http://parconline.org/assessments/score-results>

USDE Issues Rule on Test Modification

The *Disability Scoop* article below discusses the recent USDE ruling to end states' practice of administering tests to students with disabilities based on modified academic achievement standards. See the Federal Register link in the article for the actual ruling.

<http://www.disabilityscoop.com/2015/08/24/new-rule-ends-modified-tests/20589/>



Additional Resources ([top](#))

The 14th Anniversary of September 11th

The NJ Commission on Holocaust Education offers 9/11 Activities to guide classroom reflections about this event.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/holocaust/911/>



Professional Learning ([top](#))

NJDOE Calendar of Events

The Department invites you to review and register for workshops relevant to educators at all grade levels.

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

NJDOE's AchieveNJ Shared Materials

NJ's Achievement Coaches are sharing materials from peer training sessions created by educators in East Brunswick and Elizabeth School Districts.

http://www.nj.gov/education/AchieveNJ/achievement_coaches/

NJDOE Bilingual/ESL 2015-16 Workshops

This memo from Dr. Karen Campell, Director, Office of Supplemental Educational Programs, provides information on professional development offerings for district staff working with ELL students.

<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2015/AUG/25/13986/Bilingual.ESL%202015-16%20Professional%20Development.pdf>



Free Webinars

ASCD Webinars

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

**[Further Reading \(top\)](#)****Strategies to Solve Classroom Concerns**

Carnegie Mellon University and its Eberly Center host this website offering resources to enhance professional practice. Visitors can select various topics, including “Solve a Teaching Problem,” and, through a series of prompts, identify causes and possible solutions.

<http://www.cmu.edu/teaching/solveproblem/index.html>

The Teacher’s Guide to OER’s

The author of this article provides an introduction to the growing Internet world of Open Educational Resources (OER’s) including “textbooks, lesson plans, and other media that are in the public domain or openly licensed.” He suggests the value of these resources lies in the fact that they can be accessed for free and adapted to meet educator needs.

<http://www.edudemic.com/guide-open-educational-resources/>

Tips on Creating an Innovative Classroom

The Director of Technology at the Dwight-Englewood School in Englewood, New Jersey, offers “eight basic principles” for creating a classroom to inspire and motivate students toward innovation. The ideas were specific to a physical computing class but he suggests they are applicable to any course at any grade level.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/2015/08/03/innovative-classroom-490/2/>

**ASCD’s Whole Child New Learning Compact**

NJASCD has joined its national organization in calling for educators and other stakeholders to support the education of the Whole Child through a New Learning Compact. The website below posts information about the initiative and offers the opportunity to sign the pledge which advocates for “comprehensive approaches to learning that focus on educating the whole child” for success in the 21st century.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1q8O42SstV0UW5G54QvoYmqEUaRyI9bixVa3choFv-wU/viewform>

REL-Midatlantic Newsletter for August 2015

The REL-Midatlantic Regional Educational Laboratory has issued its August newsletter with a new “Resource Hub” section. The director suggests the contents are aimed at “jump-starting the planning process” for the new school year.

<https://www.relmidatlantic.org/newsletter>

NJDOE’s The Bridge for September 2015

The Bridge is a Department newsletter for K-12 educators and posted each month at this website.

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

USDE Parent Checklist for Student Success

The USDE has created a parent checklist to facilitate student success in the new school year. This memo from the Office of Supplemental Educational Programs provides more information on the checklist and where to access it on the NJDOE website.

<http://www2.ed.gov/documents/family-community/parent-checklist.pdf>



Further Reading continued (top)

An Assessment Design Toolkit for Educators

The Center for Standards Assessment and Implementation (CSAI) and the Reform Support Network, part of the USDE Race to the Top initiative, have developed a toolkit “to help educators write and select well-designed assessments.” In addition to the basics of assessment, the module covers how to design assessment tools appropriate for what is being measured.

<http://www.csai-online.org/spotlight/assessment-design-toolkit>



YOU are the Resource! (top)

ASCD Educational Leadership Seeks Articles for Future Issues

ASCD *Educational Leadership* is a monthly journal. Editors are currently looking for articles for the March 2016 issue on “Learning for Life.” The deadline for submissions is October 1, 2015. At the website below, scroll down to March for information on content guidelines.

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

EQuIP Call to Action for Educators' Submissions

EQuIP (Educators Evaluating the Quality of Instructional Products), an initiative of Achieve, is calling for professionals to submit common core-aligned instructional materials to expand available resources. The deadline for submission is October 1, 2015. A \$1,500 award and national recognition will be given to those whose contributions are deemed “exemplars” by a Peer Review Panel.

http://www.achieve.org/files/EQuIP%20call%20to%20action-FINAL%20ELA_1.pdf



Spotlight on Local Districts (top)

Toms River Regional School District and First Jersey Shore Makerfest – Oct 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/>

Nominate a District Student for the 54th Annual US Senate Youth Program

The Department asks principals to nominate a qualified junior or senior student for this unique opportunity. See the memo below for more information on application process and the October 9, 2015 submission deadline.

<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2015/AUG/25/13987/Senate%20Youth%20Application%20Memo.pdf>

Before you go....



How else can we help you? Tell us more at njcore@doe.state.nj.us!



Know someone who needs The Blast? Send them to our sign-up page at:
<http://education.state.nj.us/ccit/subscribe.php>



Missing a CCIT Blast mailing? Go to:
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/team/ccit/>

NJCORE: What's Trending? [\(top\)](#)

New Features & Content on NJCORE.ORG [\(http://njcore.org/\)](http://njcore.org/)

	Month (August)	Since Launch
Number of Registered Educators	50	2,503
Number of Visitors	6,851	167,608
Top 5 Districts	Sparta Twp.	Trenton
	Newark	Passaic
	Bridgewater	Paterson
	Trenton	Newark
	Jersey City	Bayonne
Number of Resources	14	4,852

