

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

Common Core Implementation Team (CCIT)



The Blast!

Dear Colleagues,

October is harvest time in the Garden State, and my colleagues and I have been gathering comments from stakeholders in each region around the state. As the Standards Review Committee and related groups have begun meeting in earnest, our three Listening Tours in north, central and southern NJ have reaped many benefits for all involved in the process.

Stakeholder testimony at all three locations included positive talk about the current ELA and Mathematics standards' strengths, as well as thoughtful insights about where NJ-specific revisions could be considered. While the tours have ended, people can still complete the online survey on our NJ Standards Review website until this Friday, October 9th at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/standards/survey/>. We hope to hear from many practitioners as you have unique perspectives crucial to a comprehensive and deep review.

The Department is working to keep you apprised of progress on the standards review, as well as other important ongoing supports designed to improve professional practice and student achievement. In fact, you can now "like" us on NJDOE's new Facebook page updated regularly at <https://www.facebook.com/njdeptofed>.

Thank you for helping us to be sure we have baskets full of substantive feedback—key ingredients for revised standards delivering rich food for thought to our students!

Kimberley Harrington,
Chief Academic Officer
Division of Teaching and Learning



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Division HIGHLIGHT:
Division of Early Childhood Education
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Each month *The Blast!* will highlight a team within the Division of Teaching and Learning to provide more information on their particular mission and role within the Division and NJDOE. This month's highlight is the **Division of Early Childhood Education (DECE)**. Ellen Wolock, Director of DECE, oversees the Preschool Development Grant awarded in late 2014 to 18 states, including New Jersey. The money, from both the U S Department of Education and U S Department of Health and Human Services, provides \$17.5 million a year for up to 4 years to bring NJ's high quality early childhood program currently found in 35 districts to 17 additional communities and 2,300 new preschool students.

In addition to hiring more certified teachers, the grant is being used to implement a developmentally appropriate curriculum, reduce class sizes, and provide coaches to support preschool educators working with children with disabilities and English language learners.

While the grant is a large part of the current and future focus of DECE, they have programmatic responsibility for the education of NJ's children from birth to age 5. For a more comprehensive look at what DECE does for early childhood educators, students and their families, visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/ece/index.html>



New Jersey Standards Review
Update (top)

The Standards Review Committee and subcommittees are busy reviewing comments from September's three regional Listening Tours. Visit the NJ Standards Review website below for updates on the process and to complete the online survey which will be available until Friday, October 9, 2015.

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



New Jersey
Collaborative Online Resource Exchange
[\(top\)](#)

In the weeks ahead, watch for the launching of the new and improved NJCORE.org! The website will offer more tools, lesson plans and a host of new resources for professional learning to educators in NJ and beyond. For more information on the new NJCORE.org, contact Lisa McClintock, Content Specialist, at lisa.mcclintock@doe.state.nj.us



Resources for NJ Academic Standards



ELA and Mathematics (top):

ASCD & Gates Foundation Offer EduCore

As part of a three year grant, ASCD has partnered with the Gates Foundation to create this free “EduCore” website to offer teachers and school leaders CCSS information “and to develop and deliver technical assistance for the successful implementation of the standards.” Visit the site below to register for free and gain access to all resources and tools.

<http://educore.ascd.org/>

Celebrate National Day on Writing Oct 20th

The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and partners will celebrate the seventh annual National Day on Writing on October 20th. See the site below for information on this national event and access to suggested resources for related classroom writing activities.

<http://www.ncte.org/dayonwriting>

ASCD Blogger Suggests Four Key Questions

In this blog, the author, a learning consultant, suggests questions essential for “vital teaching.” She asserts that certain questions generate discussions which help students identify as “learners who have control over how and when they learn.”

<http://edge.ascd.org/blogpost/4-questions-that-set-the-stage-for-vital-teaching>

Literacy Strategy: Would You Rather?

The author of this post has been a teacher for 17 years at both elementary and middle school levels. She explains a questioning strategy she uses to encourage students to “make a choice and defend their decision.”

<http://smartblogs.com/education/2015/09/16/literacy-strategy-would-you-rather/>



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

Coherence Map for Mathematics

Achieve has created this “coherence map” to demonstrate how the Mathematics standards relate to one another, both within and across grades.

http://achievethecore.org/coherence-map/?utm_source=close%20partners_claires_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Coherence%20Map

Research has Implications for Teaching Math:

According to recent research, “students who make decisions about how to improve their data gathering abilities, even in the simplest of experiments, gain skills of decision-making that will help them in more advanced science courses.” The findings may impact teaching strategies in advanced math and science labs.

<https://thejournal.com/articles/2015/08/26/research-iterative-decision-making-improves-critical-thinking.aspx>

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) September 2015 NOW Newsletter

At the website below, find the current NGSS NOW newsletter with stories on standards adoption across the states.

<http://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/September2015NGSSNOWNewsletter.pdf>



Career & Technical Education (top)

NJ Educator is ACTE Region 1 Excellence Awardee

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) states that award winners listed in the article below, including NJ's New Teacher of the Year, Dale Cruzan III, "embody core values of serving students and being committed to CTE." The awardees will now progress as national finalists in their categories.

<http://www.acteonline.org/RIEAWinner2015.aspx#.VgrPbnyFPjr>

CCSSO Supports States Advancing Career Pathways

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) reports that seventeen states, including NJ, are enhancing the "rigor and value" of programs preparing students for skilled, high-demand post-secondary jobs. The states are using economic data and community partnerships to "design more rigorous career pathways that span secondary and postsecondary levels, culminating in credentials for students."

http://www.ccsso.org/News_and_Events/Press_Releases/CCSSO_Announces_State_Action_to_Advance_Career_Pathways_.html



Bilingual/ESL Education (top)

NJDOE Bureau of Bilingual/ESL Education

Check the NJDOE website below to stay apprised of tools and resources for educators and other district staff working with ELL, Bilingual and ESL students.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/bilingual/resources/checklist.htm>



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NJDOE Assessments

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

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

PARCC Online News and Updates

Be sure to check the website below for updates on PARCC and a new webinar series.

<http://parconline.org/news-and-updates>

PARCC Online Article on Setting Cut Scores

This article captures conversations with several educators attending the PARCC states' gathering in Denver, CO, focused on "reviewing test items to begin the process of setting cut scores." The piece includes a reporter's discussion with David Knecht, an English teacher at Lenape Regional High School in Burlington County, New Jersey.

<http://www.parconline.org/news-and-updates/325-setting-cut-scores>



FREE 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/>

Office of Career Readiness Workshops

In November and December, the Office of Career Readiness will offer four regional workshops on “Career-Ready Practices” to assist districts with integrating them into locally developed curriculum. Find more information at the registration sites below.

<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2015/SEP/29/14108/Caree%20Ready%20Practies.pdf>

Local District Offers Workshops

Scott Klepesch, Director of Instructional Services, Caldwell-West Caldwell Schools, invites all educators to two free workshops. The sessions are based on NJDOE Summer 2015 trainings. Go to registration sites below for info or contact Scott at sklepesch@cwcboc.org.

Teacher Practice to Support Intellectual Growth October 22nd

http://www.msuner.org/events/event/show?id=2927079%3AEvent%3A34935&xgs=1&xg_source=msg_s_hare_event

Evidence-based Conversation November 17th

http://www.msuner.org/events/event/show?id=2927079%3AEvent%3A35025&xgs=1&xg_source=msg_s_hare_event



NWP Virtual Conference on Digital Writing

The National Writing Project (NWP) will host a free satellite conference from October 11 through 14 entitled “4T Virtual Conference on Digital Writing.” According to the website, this event “offers timely, flexible professional development on digital writing to a wide audience.” For more information and to register, click on the link below.

http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/events/875?x-t=sites_eos.view&or=site_eos

NJDOE Bilingual/ESL 2015-16 Workshops

The Office of Supplemental Educational Programs, Bureau of ESL/Bilingual Education, is offering professional development 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

National Archives Webinar Series

The NJDOE will host a free webinar series by the National Archives focusing on the use of primary sources in the K-12 classroom. See the link below for more information and dates.

<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2015/SEP/29/14109/NARA%20Webinars%20FALL%202015.pdf>

ASCD Webinars for October and November

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



Further Reading ([top](#))

NJ Administrator Urges New Teachers to Utilize Social Media

In this recent blog, Brad Currie, K-8 Supervisor of Instruction and Dean of Students in NJ's Chester School District, urges new teachers to become comfortable with utilizing social media. He gives an overview of various tools and tips for their use.

<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/new-teachers-need-to-know-pd-brad-currie>

Report Suggests New Roles for Future Educators

The author of this article in T.H.E. Journal discusses a recent KnowledgeWorks report about new roles for future educators, based on technology and changes in learners and learning environments.

<https://thejournal.com/articles/2015/08/26/report-7-future-roles-for-educators.aspx>

REL-Midatlantic September Newsletter

Access the September 2015 REL-Midatlantic Newsletter at the website below. Look for resources, education research updates, as well as free webinars.

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



ASCD Ed Leadership Issue on Questioning

This article offers an overview of a recent issue of Education Leadership on "Questioning for Learning." The author summarizes the articles and themes addressed.

<http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/sept15/vol73/num01/The-Species-That-Asks.aspx>

Building an Online PLN with Twitter

The author discusses how to use Twitter chats "to interact with your professional learning network (PLN) and to take advantage of all that free PD." She offers step by step guidance on setting up an online PLN.

<https://thejournal.com/articles/2015/09/11/how-to-build-your-pln-on-twitter.aspx>

How-to's of Online PD Book Clubs

A media specialist from NY State who blogs for Edutopia talks about establishing online book clubs focused on professional learning. She makes recommendations on tools and strategies for creating and sustaining a club.

<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/teacher-book-clubs-promoting-professional-development-cheryl-boes>

NJDOE's *Bridge* is Now E-Newsletter

The Department's monthly newsletter for teachers is now a subscription e-newsletter called the *NJ Educator Connection*. Sign up at the website below to receive issues and stay apprised of important information and updates for all professionals.

<https://www.state.nj.us/education/educators/newletter.htm>



YOU are the Resource! (top)

ASCD Educational Leadership Seeks Articles for Future Issues

The editors of ASCD's monthly Journal of Educational Leadership are currently looking for articles to include in the April 2016 issue on "Looking at Student Work." They are looking at "how teachers can best examine student work to provide feedback, assign grades, assess students' strengths and learning needs, and differentiate instruction." The submission deadline is November 2, 2015. At the website below, scroll down to April for information on content guidelines.

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



Grants & Opportunities (top)

Verizon App Challenge Aimed at Students

The Verizon App Challenge is "a nationwide contest for middle- and high-school-aged students that challenges them to develop concepts for mobile apps that solve a problem in their community." They invite students in teams of 5 to 7 plus an adult advisor to register with their school. Deadline is November 24.

http://appchallenge.tsaweb.org/?CMP=DMC-SMB_Z_ZZ_ZZ_Z_OO_N_X00008

Samsung's Solve for Tomorrow Contest

In this contest, Samsung invites schools to enter the Solve for Tomorrow challenge to raise interest in STEM through possible award share of up to \$2 million in technology products.

<http://www.samsung.com/us/solvefortomorrow/home.html>

EduTopia's Big List of Grants and Resources

EduTopia offers a comprehensive annotated list of grants and other resources for educators.

<http://www.edutopia.org/grants-and-resources>



Spotlight on Local Districts (top)

NJ Schools win USDE 2015 Blue Ribbon Distinction

In a recent broadcast, Commissioner Hesse congratulated nine NJ schools designated by USDE as 2015 Blue Ribbon Schools. Go to the link below for info on schools and award.

<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-education-secretary-arne-duncan-announces-2015-national-blue-ribbon-schools>

Toms River Regional School District Hosts First Jersey Shore Makerfest Oct 17th

Pre-register for free at the website below for the October 17th First Jersey Shore Makerfest to be held at Toms River Regional School District, in partnership with the NJDOE

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

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>



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