

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

Common Core Implementation Team (CCIT)



The Blast!

Dear Colleagues,

November is a time of movement inside and outside the schoolhouse! Leaves fall, temperatures drop, and the pace of teaching and learning grows and deepens. I hope you had the opportunity to attend a workshop or the convention to deepen your professional learning.

One of the powerful professional learning tools we are developing, in partnership with NJIT, is a series of **Blended Online Learning Modules to support your work**. The series will consist of six modules embedded with videos, opportunities for collegial interaction, and exemplars to support your work in professional learning communities. While you will be able to use the modules in December, we will be announcing shortly the opportunity for districts to participate in a pilot.

We're also getting ready to announce the re-introduction of the **NJ Collaborative Online Resource Exchange (NJCORE)**. The site has been revamped for a more user-friendly experience as your source for K-12 lessons, units, and additional resources aligned to NJ academic standards, parent and community resources, as well as access to social media.

As you explore the Division's newest teaching and learning supports, please let us know what you think and what you need at njcore@doe.state.nj.us. As always, thank you for your ongoing dedication to the best teaching practices guiding the best learning experiences for all NJ students.

Kimberley Harrington,
Chief Academic Officer
Division of Teaching and Learning



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Division HIGHLIGHT:
Office of Primary Education ([top](#))

This month *The Blast* highlights the **Office of Primary Education** under the leadership of director Vincent J. Costanza. The office supports kindergarten to fifth grade education by developing policies, guidance, and professional development around standards, curricula, and child assessment.

Currently, the office is focused on introducing a performance-based assessment tool (Teaching Strategies Gold) to over 700 kindergarten teachers and administrators. This voluntary state-funded assessment is designed to gain a clear view of children's starting points in kindergarten, across a range of learning objectives, with follow-up throughout the year to document growth and shape instruction.

In the first year of implementation, the focus will be on three areas: social-emotional, literacy and mathematics. Teachers receive ongoing support with participation in the five-session Kindergarten Seminar focused on the *NJ Kindergarten Guidelines* (<http://www.state.nj.us/education/ece/guide/KindergartenGuidelines.pdf>) and strategies for implementing the assessment tool. Selected graduates of prior Kindergarten Seminars have been invited to serve as Teacher Leaders, receiving additional training to support teachers in their districts.

In addition, the office is involved in preparing for the Next Generation Science Standards rollout in fall of 2017 for elementary teachers, and crafting new "Approaches toward Learning," guidance for grades K – 3. Lastly, guidelines on best practices in 1st thru 3rd grade, modeled after the *NJ Kindergarten Guidelines*, as well as the guidance on "Approaches toward Learning," will be available for educators this fall and winter respectively.



NJ Standards Review Update
[\(top\)](#)

The Standards Review Committee continues their meeting schedule, and integrating the work of the three content committees. The NJDOE website below provides news and updates on the process.

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



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

Final touches are being made to the revamped NJCORE.org website with an anticipated launch to be announced soon! 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 about the website, contact Lisa McClintock, Content Specialist, at: lisa.mcclintock@doe.state.nj.us.





Resources for NJ Academic Standards



ELA and Mathematics (top):

Global Oneness Project Story of the Month

Created in 2006, the Global Oneness Project offers “free multicultural stories and lesson plans for high school and college classrooms.” Lesson plans include an interdisciplinary approach, focus on critical thinking, and are aligned to NJ’s ELA standards.

<https://www.globalonenessproject.org/about-project>

ReadWriteThink Website Resources

This website is a collaboration of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), International Literacy Association (ILA) and the Verizon Foundation. Find ELA standards-aligned lessons, including videos, along with professional learning on this site.

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

AMTNJ’s Online Math Resources

The Association of Mathematics Teachers of NJ (AMTNJ) has a website offering a variety of resources for math and other educators. Find lessons and other instructional materials, as well as professional learning opportunities on the site. AMTNJ newsletters, published winter, spring and fall, are available online, along with the AMTNJ Journal. Editors for the Journal, *The NJ Mathematics Teacher*, seek manuscripts throughout the year for publication.

<http://amtnj.org/>

NCTM Illuminations Website

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) created “Illuminations” to provide free instructional resources for teachers reflecting NCTM principles and aligned to CCSS mathematics standards. The site offers lessons and "interactives" for pre-K to grade 12.

<https://illuminations.nctm.org/>



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

NGSS News, Videos and October Newsletter

Look under “Latest News” on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) website to find new resources. These include videos on transitioning to the NGSS, as well as the October 2015 NOW newsletter with a story on how Mount Laurel Township School District teachers are enhancing their technology and science curricula.

<http://www.nextgenscience.org/>





Career & Technical Education ([top](#))

New Jersey SkillsUSA Fall Newsletter

NJ students and advisors joined others from around the country at the 2015 Washington Leadership Institute in Washington, DC. Read about their national awards for accomplishments in various activities in the newsletter below, and learn more about the NJ SkillsUSA program which allows students to practice leadership, citizenry and employability skills.

<http://files.ctctcdn.com/eda876ca201/433a433d-8820-4f41-a714-5a3deb63d4df.pdf>

NJDOE/NJSBA Win Emerald Award

In October, the NJ School Boards Association and NJ Department of Education were one of six recipients of the 13th Annual Emerald Awards. The award was given by the US Green Building Council, New Jersey Chapter, for the New Jersey Green Program of Study which prepares students for jobs in sustainable design, energy and construction. See the press release below for more information on the awardees.

<http://files.ctctcdn.com/eda876ca201/8d48d83d-a1d6-4c5c-8c7c-aa8f20d383b6.pdf>



Bilingual/ESL Education ([top](#))

NJDOE Bureau of Bilingual/ESL Education

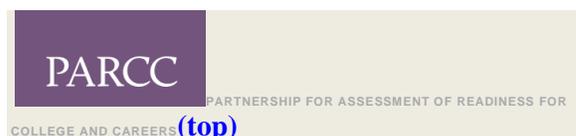
Check the website below to see the timeline for ACCESS 2.0 Administration Dates (2015-2016). The timeline was updated on October 20, 2015.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/bilingual/ells/timelines.htm>

NCELA's October 2015 Nexus Newsletter

The National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (NCELA) provides a free semi-monthly newsletter with announcements about webinars, conferences and links to papers and reports related to language acquisition. Find the latest issue of *Nexus* at this website.

<http://ncela.ed.gov/october-22-2015>



NJDOE Assessments – PARCC Website

Stay abreast of the most current news regarding PARCC scores and resources for administrators, educators and parents at the Department website.

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

PARCC's Partnership Resource Center

In a recent NJDOE Broadcast, Kimberley Harrington, Chief Academic Officer, announced that educators can access actual PARCC assessment items to see how they are scored. At the PARCC "Partnership Resource Center" site below, find scoring rubrics, as well as scored and annotated samples of students' work. The site also offers PARCC's new Test Builder tool to use the released items to build local assessments. To access NJ data, click the person icon on the top right of website to create a new account. On the new account page, enter the requested NJ code: NJ1787

<https://prc.parcconline.org/>

Christie Administration Press Release

The Christie Administration issued this announcement on the release of the 2015 PARCC scores offering a summary of the test outcomes for Grades 3-11 and describing expectations for the 2016 assessments.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/news/2015/1020PARCC.htm>

PARCC Data Informs Teaching & Learning

This NJDOE document gives a more detailed overview of the 2015 PARCC outcomes and their implications for teaching and learning in NJ school districts. The report also discusses state assessment goals for 2016.

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

UnderstandTheScore.org by PARCC

PARCC has created a new website, UnderstandtheScore.org, to walk parents through the score report and provide clear information on their child's progress toward meeting grade level expectations and mastering important skills like critical thinking.

<http://understandthescore.org/>

**FREE Professional Learning (top)****NJDOE Calendar of Events**

The Department invites you to review the website below and register for free workshops.

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

Workshops on Updated PARCC Math Tests

This letter provides information on the schedule of regional workshops designed for district math educators on the updated PARCC mathematics assessments to be given Grades 3-12 in 2016.

<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2015/OCT/21/14203/PARCC%20Workshop%20Broadcast%20Memo.pdf>

Office of Career Readiness Fall Workshops

In November and December, OCR is offering four regional workshops on "Career-Ready Practices." The topics will include an overview of the practices, discussion of classroom-ready resources, activities and tools to support implementation, as well as structured learning experiences and the NJ Career Assistance Navigator (NJCAN), a state-supported, free online career exploration and planning tool.

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

NJDOE Bilingual/ESL 2015-16 Workshops

The Office of Supplemental Educational Programs, Bureau of ESL/Bilingual Education, is offering professional development in the months ahead for district staff working with ELL students.

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

Workshop on Adolescent Literacy

On November 20, from 8:30am to 12noon, REL Mid-Atlantic and NJPSA/FEA will offer a free workshop at NJPSA on “Improving Adolescent Literacy: Effective Classroom and Intervention Practices.” To register for this workshop, visit the website below.

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eb5991yj6aff1bfc&llr=moxbufjab>



National Archives Webinar Series

NJDOE is hosting a free webinar series by the National Archives with a focus on using primary sources in the K-12 classroom.

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

REL Mid-Atlantic Webinar on ELL

On November 12, from 3 to 5pm, REL Mid-Atlantic will provide this webinar focused on “Effective Instruction for English Learners.”

https://www.relmidatlantic.org/public_event/effective-instruction-english-learners

REL Southwest Webinar on Bi-literacy

REL Southwest provides resources and research on a host of education topics. This site links to an archived webinar on evidence-based instructional programs and services supporting bi-literacy development for K-12 ELL.

http://relsouthwest.sedl.org/bridge_events/2015-07-27_biliteracy/index.html

Stanford Releases MOOCs on Language

Four MOOCs on “Understanding Language” are being offered free by Stanford University. The focus is on different aspects of language demands. Due to grant funding from the Hewlett Foundation, Televisa Foundation, USDE and Oregon Department of Education, the series is free and available at the website below.

<http://ell.stanford.edu/content/moocs>

ASCD Webinars for November

Check for upcoming free webinars on the ASCD website below.

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



Further Reading (top)

NJDOE’s NJ Educator Connection

The *NJ Educator Connection* is the NJDOE monthly newsletter for teachers. Sign up at the website below for current and archived issues.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/newsletter/>

NJDOE’s NJ Family Connection

The *NJ Family Connection* quarterly newsletter provides information and news on education to parents, guardians, family and community members.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/parents/newsletter/>



Have you heard?



NJDOE is on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/njdeptofed>

US Chamber of Commerce Foundation Video

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation released a new video advocating for high K-12 academic standards by illustrating how skills students learn in today's classroom prepare them for innovative jobs in the near future. Watch and share "Ready-Set-Prepared" at this website.

<http://www.achievetomorrow.org/ready-set-prepared-2/>

WSCC in the Journal of School Health

The concept of WSCC or "Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child" was created by ASCD and the CDC to encourage a wholistic approach for educating children. This article gives an overview of the initiative and highlights JOSH articles on ways to integrate learning and health for student success.

<http://www.ascd.org/news-media/Press-Room/News-Releases/WSCC-Model-Highlighted-by-ASHA.aspx>



Questioning for Learning and Life

This ASCD article describes the experiences of one South Carolina school district utilizing Wonderopolis (<http://wonderopolis.org/>) as a tool for engaging students in a number of inquiry-based activities in the classroom and beyond.

<http://inservice.ascd.org/questioning-for-learning-questioning-for-life/>



YOU are the Resource! ([top](#))

IDEA Celebrates 40 Years of Impact

In a recent memo, Peggy McDonald, Executive Director, Office of Special Education Programs, explains that November 2015 marks the 40th anniversary of IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). She reports that USDE's Office of Special Education Programs seeks comments from those impacted by IDEA, including students, teachers, parents and other IDEA stakeholders. The website for sharing comments is below.

<https://www.osep-meeting.org/ideaanniversary/default.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

NJ Chamber Foundation Educator Survey

The Chamber Foundation seeks feedback via the survey below on designing educator workshops. For more information, contact Julie Rita-Di Pietro at julie@njchamber.com

http://esurv.org/online-survey.php?surveyID=LMKOIF_e0ecf264

EdReports.org Seeks ELA Content Reviewers

EdReports pays stipends to content experts for reviewing ELA text series which are posted online to facilitate districts' purchasing decisions regarding instructional materials. They have posted the job description and application at the website below. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

<http://www.edreports.org/about/opportunities.html>

ASCD Educational Leadership Seeks Articles for Future Issues

The editors of ASCD's Journal of Educational Leadership are seeking articles for the May 2016 issue on "The Working Lives of Educators." Articles should "examine the new pressures teachers face and the support they need at different career stages." At the website below, scroll down to May 2016 for information. The deadline is December 1, 2015.

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



Grants & Opportunities for Teachers and Students ([top](#))

Nominate a Student for Study Abroad

In this broadcast, Kimberley Harrington, Chief Academic Officer, provides information on US Department of State scholarship opportunities for high school students. Applications for two of the three have deadlines in December 2015 and January 2016. Access to application forms and more information is available at this site.

<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2015/OCT/21/14204/Scholarships%20for%20American%20OHS%20Students%20to%20Study%20Abroad.pdf>

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, 2015.

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. The contest ends May 1, 2016.

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

Global Entrepreneurship DECA Challenge

The DECA (previously the Distributive Education Clubs of America) Idea Challenge, part of Global Entrepreneurship Week, fosters entrepreneurial thinking in students. The contest seeks "an innovative new use for a commonplace item in just eight days." The item will be identified on November 12th and entries are due November 19th. Guidelines and classroom activities are included in the web toolkit below.

<http://www.deca.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/DECA-Idea-Challenge-2015-Toolkit.pdf>



Woodrow Wilson HistoryQuest Fellowship

According to the website below, the WW HistoryQuest Fellowship was "developed with the [Institute of Play](#) in New York City, and offers professional development for NJ middle and high school American history teachers." The focus is on using the power of games, play, and digital tools to transform instructional practice and engage students. If accepted, educators attend a free 7-day July 2015 workshop in Princeton. Deadline for nominations is November 30th.

<http://woodrow.org/fellowships/historyquest/>



**Spotlight on Local Districts:
Teachers and Students in the News (top)**

Union City Teacher Receives National Award

Kimberly Moreno, Union City High School Health Sciences Teacher, has been awarded the 2015 Milken National Educator Award. Read about Ms. Moreno's accomplishments and the award on the NJDOE website.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/educators/rpr/recognition/educators/milken/15/Moreno.shtml>



Elizabeth Teacher Honored by Rutgers

Tracy Espiritu, a teacher in Elizabeth Public Schools and Rutgers alumna, has received the Rutgers School of Engineering Dean's Award for Service for "her efforts in advancing the engineering profession through personal commitment and dedication." Read about her work in supporting STEM education with students and colleagues at the website below.

<http://soe.rutgers.edu/story/rutgers-school-engineering-honors-outstanding-alumni-0>

Lincroft Student is National Student Poet

Eileen Huang, a student at High Technology High School in Lincroft is one of five students to win an award in the National Student Poets Program. Visit the site below to read Eileen's poetry and learn more about her student life.

<http://www.artandwriting.org/the-awards/national-student-poets-program/eileen-huang/>

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 Blast 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/>