COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS AND RESOURCES

CCSSO developed this list of tools and resources to point states to promising practices and tools to support Common Core State Standards implementation. This document primarily lists resources developed by CCSSO and the lead writers of the standards and is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all resources available.

The resources are grouped into the following categories:

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INFORMATION ABOUT THE STANDARDS FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS, AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Corestandards.org
The official website of the Common Core State Standards Initiative. This includes links to the standards, news from CCSSO and NGA, and a state adoption map.
Creators: CCSSO and NGA
Contact: CCSSO
Status: Ongoing

Videos of Standards Writers Explaining Key Issues of the Common Core State Standards
Provide states professional-quality, modular videos they can share with educators, either sequentially or on an individual basis, that describe different important aspects of the ELA and mathematics standards and key implementation issues. The videos highlight David Coleman, Sue Pimentel, Bill McCallum and Jason Zimba.
Creator/Lead Author: CCSSO, in partnership with the James B. Hunt Institute
Contact: CCSSO

Videos of Common Core Lessons for Teachers
There are over 80 free videos related to Common Core instruction available on the Teaching Channel. The videos provide lesson ideas, an overview of the ELA and Math standards, and demonstrations of teaching practices. Videos vary in length from five to thirty minutes.

Principal Supports
CCSSO, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) are collaborating on ways to provide states with resources on how to support principals and school leaders in transitioning to the Common Core.
Contact: CCSSO

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PTA Parent Guides
Provide **grade-by-grade parent guides** that reflect the Common Core State Standards. Individual guides were created for grades K-8 and two were created for grades 9-12 (one for English language arts/literacy and one for mathematics). Eleven guides were created in all. State education agencies, school districts, state boards of education, and state/local PTAs may co-brand the Guides. The guides are available in English and Spanish. The modifiable Guides are available online (Username: pta user, Password: global).

**Creators:** PTA and Common Core State Standards writers

**Contact:** National PTA

**College Readiness Partnership**
CCSSO, The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), and the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) are currently working with state leadership teams from Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, Oregon, Tennessee, and Wisconsin in the College Readiness Partnership.

The Partnership is a collaborative to promote broad implementation of the Common Core State Standards in mathematics and English Language Arts, with a strong focus on those issues at the intersection of K-12 and higher education systems.

**Contact:** Kathleen Paliokas, CCSSO

**Related Publications:**

National Governors Association (NGA) report (October 2011): *Realizing the Potential: How Governors Can Lead Effective Implementation of the Common Core State Standards*, provides governors and other state policymakers with guidance to transition their school systems to the standards.

*Preparing for Change: A National Perspective on Common Core State Standards Implementation Planning*, Education First and the EPE Research Center published this report in January 2012. It highlights the results of a survey conducted in June 2011 on state implementation planning.
RESOURCES FOR STATE AND DISTRICT LEADERS

Content Alignment Tool
CCSSO’s long-standing Surveys of Enacted Curriculum (SEC) SCASS created an online tool in summer 2010 to help states compare their current state standards, their enacted curriculum (what teachers are actually teaching in the classroom), and the Common Core State Standards in order to identify their degree of alignment to one another. This alignment tool can be found online, as well as a tutorial on how to use it.
Creator: CCSSO
Contact: Rolf Blank

Expanded Learning Opportunities Publication
A long-standing project of CCSSO, the expanded learning opportunities (ELO) program, recently published, Connecting High-quality Expanded Learning Opportunities and the Common Core State Standards to Advance Student Success.
Creator: CCSSO
Contact: Taliah Givens, director for Expanded Learning Opportunities at CCSSO

Technical Expertise Exchange
CCSSO started the Technical Expertise Exchange to support state and local education agencies through the creation of common information requests. Over the spring of 2011, CCSSO released a series of information requests to providers from around the world to solicit their best practices and innovative ideas. In April 2011, CCSSO released a series of information requests related to helping build state and local capacity to implement the Common Core State Standards. All of the information collected from these requests is now freely available to state education agencies online.
Creator: CCSSO
Contact: CCSSO

Date: February 27, 2012
P21 Common Core Toolkit
Designed to support state & district education leaders who are implementing CCSS and are committed to preparing young people to succeed in college and today’s challenging workforce, the P21 Common Core Toolkit is a new resource guide which demonstrates how the P21 Framework for 21st Century Learning & CCSS align and support each other. The P21 Common Core Toolkit shows what aligning P21 skills and CCSS looks like through examples & sample lessons and identifies useful resources for education leaders currently working on CCSS implementation. Free downloads and hard copy orders are available online.

Creator: Partnership for 21st Century Skills
Contact: Tatyana Varshavsky, Partnership for 21st Century Skills

Tagging the Common Core Standards and Developing XML Version
CCSSO and NGA are developing official identifiers (metadata/tagging) for the CCSS and an XML version that can be used consistently across the field. CCSSO and NGA have engaged the standards writers in this process to ensure that the meaning of the standards does not get lost in this technical process. Additionally, CCSSO and NGA will work with states and other partners to gain insights and feedback throughout the process. It is anticipated that a draft of the XML and identifiers will be released in spring 2012 for feedback. The goal is to make the XML version and identifiers publically available on www.corestandards.org at the conclusion of the formal feedback process.

Contact: Stephanie Shipton, NGA
Timeline: Initial drafts to be released in spring 2012

Achieve Common Core Implementation Guide
Achieve's "On the Road to Implementation: Achieving the Promise of the Common Core State Standards" seeks to identify the key areas that state policymakers will need to consider to implement the new standards with fidelity. It is meant to be the starting point from which state and district leaders and their allies can organize and begin the necessary discussions around key topics to successfully implement the standards.

Contact: CCSSO
Status: Complete; materials will be added on an ongoing basis.

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**Achieve-Education Delivery Institute Common Core Implementation Workbook**
The workbook uses a proven performance management methodology known as “delivery” to lay out clear action steps for states and districts. It provides relevant information, case stories of good practice, key questions and hands-on exercises for leadership teams to complete together. Regardless of your state's timeline, the workbook offers state and district leaders the means to plan for the CCSS and then drive successful implementation.

**Contact:** CCSSO  
**Status:** In progress. Completed chapters of the workbook can be downloaded from the website.

**Achieve Compilation of State Exemplars in Common Core Implementation**
This document features state practices and models and provides a high-level snapshot of the work underway in states to implement the CCSS. This document is not intended to be exhaustive, and Achieve will continue to expand the list of resources going forward.

**Contact:** Margaret Millar, CCSSO  
**Status:** Complete; materials will be added on an ongoing basis.

**Achieve Open Educational Resources (OER) Rubrics and Evaluation Tool**
To help states, districts, teachers, and other users determine the degree of alignment of OERs to the Common Core State Standards, and to determine aspects of quality of OERs, Achieve has developed eight rubrics in collaboration with leaders from the OER community. In addition, to allow users to apply these rubrics and evaluate the quality of instructional resources, Achieve partnered with OER Commons to develop an online evaluation tool. OER Commons, an online repository for open education resources, is now hosting the tool and its resulting evaluation data.

**Contact:** CCSSO
**Mathematics Common Core State Standards Resources**

**Illustrative Mathematics Project**
Guide the work of states, assessment consortia, and testing companies by illustrating the range and types of mathematical work that students will experience in a faithful implementation of the standards.

**Creator/Lead Author:** Bill McCallum, lead math standards writer

**Status:** New tasks added weekly.

**Progressions documents for the Common Core Math Standards**
Produce a final version of the math progressions, which are narrative documents describing the progression of a topic across a number of grade levels, informed both by research on children's cognitive development and by the logical structure of mathematics. The original math Common Core writing team will finalize and publish these documents. [Drafts of the progressions that have been developed to date are posted to the web site.](http://www.achievethecore.org). 

**Creator/Lead Author:** Bill McCallum, lead math standards writer

**Timeline:** Under development

**AchieveTheCore.org**
The Student Achievement Partners (SAP), an organization founded by David Coleman and Jason Zimba, two of the lead writers of the Common Core State Standards, recently launched a website to share free, open-source resources to support Common Core implementation at the classroom, district, and state level: [www.achievethecore.org](http://www.achievethecore.org). The mathematics resources on the web site include information on the key instructional shifts for math and guidance for focusing math instruction.

**Hyperlinked version of the math standards**
Provide a version of the math standards with hyperlinks within the document so a reader can electronically navigate the standards with fluidity.

**Creator/Lead Author:** Bill McCallum, lead math standards writer

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Visual depiction of the mathematical practices
Display some higher-order structure to the mathematical practice standards, just as the clusters and domains provide higher order structure to the content standards.

Creator/Lead Author: Bill McCallum

Classroom examples and tools for mathematics instruction
Inside Mathematics is a professional resource for educators that features classroom examples of innovative teaching methods and insights into student learning, tools for mathematics instruction that teachers can use immediately, and video tours of the ideas and materials on the website. Inside Mathematics will be aligning its tools and examples to the Common Core.
Timeline: Sign up on the Inside Mathematics web site for notifications when resources are available.

Research-based professional development for math Common Core implementation
Research study entitled “Articulating Research Ideas that Support the Implementation of the Professional Development Needed for Making the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics Reality for K-12 Teachers” This National Science Foundation (NSF) funded project will coordinate knowledge from different fields to develop recommendations for the design, implementation, and assessment of large-scale professional development systems consistent with the mathematics of the Common Core State Standards. Research results from diverse perspectives (e.g., mathematics education, organizational theory, professional development) will be articulated into a coherent framework and a set of recommendations for successful large-scale, system-level implementation of mathematics professional development initiatives. The recommendations will be disseminated through the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Creators/Lead Authors: North Carolina State University researchers
Contact: Project director and principal investigator Paola Sztajn
Timeline: Ongoing, a November 2011 summary report of their work is available online.

Math Common Core Coalition
The Mathematics Common Core Coalition works to provide expertise and advice on issues related to the effective implementation of the Common Core State Standards for School Mathematics (CCSSM). The site includes material or links to information and resources that the organizations of the coalition are providing to the public and the education community about the CCSSM.

Coalition Members: the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics (NCSM), the Association of Mathematics Teacher

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Educators (AMTE), the Association of State Supervisors of Mathematics (ASSM), the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), the National Governors Association (NGA), the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium, and the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC).

**Contact:** CCSSO

**Timeline:** Resources added on an ongoing basis. To suggest resources to add to the site, contact CCSSO.

**Mathematics Design Collaborative**
The Mathematics Design Collaborative (MDC) is a group of curriculum designers, assessment developers, professional learning specialists, and district and school networks. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded MDC to develop high-quality instructional tools and professional support services. This site provides teachers with an opportunity to connect with other teachers who are using new tools in Math and Literacy to implement the new Common Core State Standards. Teachers can seek ideas and advice, share challenges, or find specific teaching tools and strategies to use in their classrooms.

**Contact:** CCSSO

**Bill McCallum’s blog**
Math Common Core lead writer Bill McCallum keeps a blog of math Common Core implementation projects that he hears of through his work.

**Related Publications**
Horizon Research, Inc. recently released *A Priority Research Agenda for Understanding the Influence of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics*. This report details the rationale for, and recommendations of, a priority research agenda for understanding the influence of the CCSSM. It concludes with methodological considerations for carrying out the proposed agenda. The priority research agenda was developed with broad-based input from mathematics education and policy researchers.

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Publisher’s criteria for development of instructional materials
David Coleman and Sue Pimentel, two authors of the Common Core State Standards, developed these criteria to guide publishers and curriculum developers as they work to ensure alignment with the Common Core State Standards in developing reading materials for the early grades (K-2) and the later grades (3-12). The criteria articulated below concentrate on the most significant elements of the Common Core State Standards for literacy and lay out their implications for aligning materials with the standards. They are intended to direct curriculum developers and publishers to be purposeful and strategic in both what to include and what to exclude in instructional material. By underscoring what matters most in the standards, the criteria illustrate what shifts must take place in the next generation of curricula, including paring away elements that distract or are at odds with the Common Core State Standards. These guidelines are not meant to dictate classroom practice but rather to ensure that teachers receive effective tools.

Publishers’ Criteria for K-2
Publishers’ Criteria for 3-12

Creators/Lead Authors: Sue Pimentel and David Coleman, lead CCSS ELA standards writers
Contact: Carrie Heath Phillips, CCSSO

AchievetheCore.org
The Student Achievement Partners (SAP), an organization founded by David Coleman and Jason Zimba, two of the lead writers of the Common Core State Standards, recently launched a website to share free, open-source resources to support Common Core implementation at the classroom, district, and state level: www.achievethecore.org. Resources currently available include the most recent edition of the English Language Arts (ELA) Publishers’ Criteria, resources from the Standards Immersion Institute hosted for district leaders on January 19-20, 2012 in New York, and guides to writing text dependent questions. Additional resources will be added throughout spring and summer 2012.
**Literacy Design Collaborative**

The collaborative, hosted by New Visions, with the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is an informational space for school leaders to locate resources for Common Core State Standards. New Visions will be working with select schools to develop, test out and share curriculum aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) using Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC) and Shell Centre strategies.

**Contact:** [CCSSO](#)

**CCSSO Webinar on Text Complexity**

The recording of the January 26, 2012 webinar on text complexity and the accompanying materials are [available online](#). The webinar, which focused on tools and resources to support teachers and districts on text complexity, featured Sue Pimentel, a member of the Common Core State Standards English language arts writing committee, as well as representatives from the Kansas and Louisiana Departments of Education.

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IMPLEMENTATION RESOURCES CREATED BY STATES

EngageNY.org
EngageNY.org provides educators and administrators with resources on Common Core implementation in New York. New York has developed “getting started” guides for different audiences, including teachers, principals, and administrators. Curriculum exemplars in Math and English Language Arts are posted on EngageNY.org. You may sign up to receive the EngageNY.org newsletter through the web site.

Georgia State-wide Professional Development on Common Core
On September 21, 2011, State Schools Superintendent John Barge and the Georgia Department of Education staff recorded a webinar to introduce and explain the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS) to teachers across the state. The event was billed as a ‘state-wide faculty meeting’ and the information shared by Department staff served as professional development to educators across the state to learn in-depth about Georgia’s implementation timeline and how the CCGPS will impact the students, educators, and taxpayers of Georgia.

Hawaii Standards Database
This database lists resources provided by the Hawaii Department of Education to Hawaii teachers and publicly accessible by all educators.

Colorado Standards Implementation Toolkit
The Standards Implementation Toolkit is designed to help Colorado educators understand, transition to, and fully implement the Colorado Academic Standards (CAS) and the Colorado English Language Proficiency (CELP) standards. The new standards were written with a transformational vision and purpose in mind, requiring an intentional and thoughtful approach to implementation in order to achieve the intended outcomes for Colorado’s students and educational system.

Ohio Model Curriculum
During the summer and fall of 2010, teachers across Ohio worked collaboratively in teams to suggest instructional strategies and resources that align with the revised standards. The State Board of Education adopted the Model Curriculum on March 15, 2011. The adopted model curricula for English Language Arst are posted on the site.

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ASSESSMENT CONSORTIA INFORMATION

Two state-led consortia – the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) and the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) – are currently developing the assessments that will test students on the new standards beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. You can sign up for updates on their work through their web sites:

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)
SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)

Related Publications

A December 2011 report from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) identifies the conditions that can help build consensus between state K-12 and postsecondary systems on policy issues. It specifically makes recommendations for meaningful involvement by higher education in the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and assessments by identifying criteria that reflect a state’s capacity for alignment between K-12 and higher education as well as the hallmarks of what meaningful higher education involvement looks like.