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Council of the Great City Schools

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Literacy Resource Bank Developed to Help Nation's Urban School Districts Implement New Academic Standards

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16 – The Council of the Great City Schools and Student Achievement Partners (SAP) today announced a new online resource aimed at helping school districts nationwide implement the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and literacy, one of two major components of the new academic standards adopted by 46 states and the District of Columbia.

The resource bank includes a compilation of questions and tasks aligned to the new common core standards in English language arts (ELA) and literacy that can be used to help school districts transition to the new standards.

In an initiative called the Basal Alignment Project (BAP), literacy educators from states across the country came together to write the standards-aligned materials and questions that teachers and administrators can use in conjunction with their current curriculum while new instructional products are being developed.

The project was spearheaded by the Council, which represents the nation's largest urban public school systems, and coordinated by Student Achievement Partners (SAP), a non-profit group whose founders were instrumental in writing the new standards in English language arts.

“Revisions to current ELA curricula to help teachers transition to the Common Core State Standards have been an ongoing, intensive, cooperative effort by dozens of districts, states, and school-district content specialists, and SAP,” says Council Executive Director Michael Casserly. “Their work is freely available to all school districts in the nation.”

The Council and SAP have also worked with publishers to roll out the first wave of new resources, which focus on grades three, four and five. The basals that are included in the first round of materials are Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's *Medallion, Reading, StoryTown*, and *Trophies*; McGraw-Hill's *Imagine It!, Open Court* and *Treasures*; and Pearson's *Reading Street*.

The new bank of resources is located at “Basal Alignment Project” on the education site Edmodo -- www.edmodo.com.

School districts, publishers, education organizations and others can link to the site or download and adapt materials that can be widely available to teachers and students in all the Common Core states and districts. When an account is created on Edmodo, the group code “etuyrm” must be used to join the Basal Alignment Project group. Project partners will also continue to refine and add materials to the site.

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