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Council of the Great City Schools

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Thousands of Educators Nationwide Taking Advantage Of Resource to Help Urban School Districts Implement New Standards

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 – More than 10,000 educators around the nation are utilizing the free literacy resource bank launched by the Council of the Great City Schools and Student Achievement Partners just five months ago to help school districts implement the Common Core State Standards, adopted by 46 states and the District of Columbia.

The resource bank, part of an initiative called the Basal Alignment Project (BAP), offers an online library of basal reading lessons used in grades 3 to 5 that are aligned to the new common-core standards in English-language arts and literacy.

The resources are made available on Edmodo, the leading social learning platform used by educators. Edmodo COO Crystal Hutter has confirmed that the Basal Alignment Project Group is the largest professional learning community currently using the site.

“It’s amazing how fast these resources have been adopted since we introduced the literacy resource bank in August,” says Council Executive Director Michael Casserly. “The ability for educators across the country to collaborate on tools and share materials is one of the most exciting outcomes of Common Core State Standards adoption.”

The Basal Alignment Project offers a compilation of text-dependent questions and tasks to align the classroom lessons with the new common-core standards in English-language arts and literacy. The free resources help school districts transition to the new academic standards.

BAP is 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.

Educators have requested similar open educational resources for other grades. The Council and SAP are jointly planning the Anthology Alignment Project, which will focus on creating aligned common-core materials for the major market English anthologies in grades 6 to 10. School districts are currently being recruited in collaborating on the project and can access <http://www.achievethecore.org/basal-alignment-project> for more information.

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