

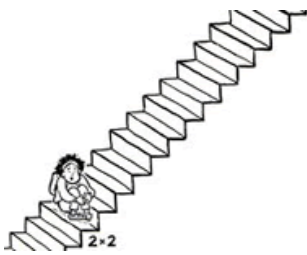


Catalog of Instructional Tools to Help Schools And School Districts Implement College- and Career-Readiness Standards

By the Council of the Great City Schools

The Council of the Great City Schools developed the following tools to help its urban school systems and others implement college- and career-readiness standards. Many of these materials can also be found on the Council website, www.commoncoreworks.org.

Basics about the Standards



Staircase. Two three-minute videos (one in English and one in Spanish) that explain the Common Core. This is particularly good for presentations to community and parent groups. (2012)

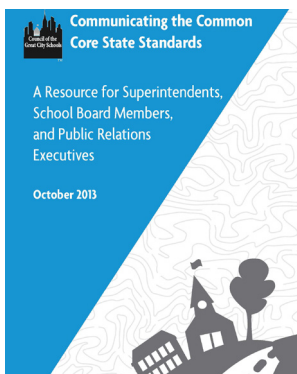
<https://www.cgcs.org/Page/380>



Conversation. Two three-minute videos (one in English and one in Spanish) that explain how the Common Core State Standards will help students achieve at high levels and help them learn what they need to know to get to graduation and beyond. (2015)

<http://www.cgcs.org/Page/467>

Communicating the Standards



Communicating the Common Core State Standards: A Resource for Superintendents, School Board Members, and Public Relations Executives. A resource guide that helps district leaders devise and execute comprehensive communication plans to strengthen public awareness about and support for college- and career-readiness standards. (2013)

<http://bit.ly/2wi5tu6>



Staircase. Two 30-second Public Service Announcements (one in English and one in Spanish) to increase public awareness regarding Common Core standards for English Language Arts. Also, two 30-second Public Service Announcements (one in English and one in Spanish) to increase public awareness regarding Common Core standards for Mathematics. (2012)

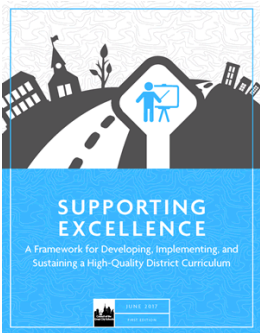
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Conversation. Two 30-second Public Service Announcements (one in English and one in Spanish) that explain how the Common Core State Standards will help students achieve at high levels and help them learn what they need to know to get to graduation and beyond. (2015)

<http://www.cgcs.org/Page/467>

Developing and Aligning Standards-based District Curriculum



Supporting Excellence: A Framework for Developing, Implementing, and Sustaining a High-Quality District Curriculum. A framework that provides instructional leaders and staff with a core set of criteria for what a high-quality curriculum entails. This guide includes annotated samples and exemplars from districts around the country. It also provides actionable recommendations for developing, implementing, and continuously improving a district curriculum, ensuring that it reflects shared instructional beliefs and common, high expectations for all students, and that it focuses the instructional work in every school. (2017)

<http://bit.ly/2sYOYAS>

Selecting and Using Standards-based Instructional Materials



The Grade-Level Instructional Materials Evaluation Tool-Quality Review (GIMET-QR), (English Language Arts). A set of grade-by-grade rubrics and a companion document that define the key features for reviewers to consider in examining the quality of instructional materials in English Language Arts K-12. In addition, the tools are useful in helping teachers decide where and how adopted classroom materials could be supplemented. The documents align with similar tools developed by the Council for English language learners. See below. (2015)

<http://www.cgcs.org/Page/474>



The Grade-Level Instructional Materials Evaluation Tool-Quality Review (GIMET-QR), (Mathematics). A set of grade-level rubrics and a companion document that define the key features for reviewers to consider in examining the quality of instructional materials in mathematics K-8. The key features include examples and guiding statements from the Illustrative Mathematics progression documents to clarify the criteria. (2015)

<http://www.cgcs.org/Page/475>

- *Basal Alignment Project.* Classroom tools for adapting basal texts to the rigor of the Common Core in English language arts and literacy (scroll down to the bottom for directions on signing into EdModo).

<https://www.cgcs.org/domain/112>

- *Read Aloud Project.* The Read Aloud Project offers lessons for K–2 read aloud books that have been adapted to meet college- and career-ready standards. Hundreds of teachers worked collaboratively to develop these materials. Each lesson was authored, edited, and reviewed by a team of expert educators. These lessons emphasize key aspects of college- and career-ready standards, including quality sequenced text-dependent questions, improved speaking, listening and writing tasks, and a focus on academic vocabulary. The professional development resources explain how to identify and create text-dependent and text-specific questions that deepen student understanding.

<http://achievethecore.org/page/944/read-aloud-project>

- *Text Set Project: Building Knowledge and Vocabulary.* This professional learning opportunity is for teachers, those who support teachers, librarians, and media specialists to build understanding and experience with Common Core State Standards- aligned instruction and materials. The professional development includes materials, activities, and discussions to enable participants to begin creating and using Expert Packs (text sets) to support students in building knowledge, vocabulary and the capacity to read independently.

<http://achievethecore.org/page/1099/text-set-project-building-knowledge-and-vocabulary>

- *Fraction Progression:* Classroom tools and videos for teaching fractions across grades three through six, developed in collaboration with Illustrative Mathematics and Achieve.

<https://www.cgcs.org//site/Default.aspx?PageID=338>

- *LEADCS:* An electronic toolbox that includes research and additional vetted materials that member districts can use to make decisions about bringing computer science for all students to scale. This website was designed in partnership with the University of Chicago team at the Center for Elementary Mathematics and Science Education.

<https://www.cgcs.org/domain/290>

Professional Development on the Standards



From the Page to the Classroom—ELA. A 45-minute professional development video for central office and school-based staff and teachers on the shifts in the Common Core in English Language Arts and literacy. The video can be stopped and restarted at various spots to allow for discussion. (2012)

<https://www.cgcs.org/domain/127>



From the Page to the Classroom—Math. A 45-minute professional development video for central office and school-based staff and teachers on the shifts in the Common Core in mathematics. The video can be stopped and restarted at various spots to allow for discussion. (2012)

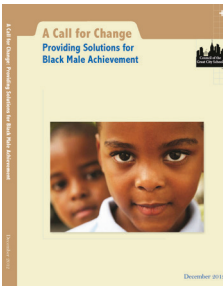
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Implementing High Standards with Diverse Students



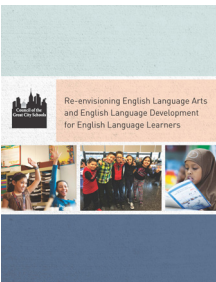
Common Core State Standards and Diverse Urban School Students: Using Multi-tiered Systems of Support. A white paper outlining the key components of an integrated, multi-tiered system of supports and interventions needed by districts in the implementation of the Common Core with diverse urban students. (2012)

<https://www.cgcs.org/domain/146>



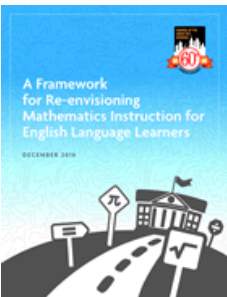
A Call for Change: Providing Solutions for Black Male Achievement. A book-form compendium of strategies by leading researchers and advocates on improving academic outcomes for African American boys and young men. Areas addressed include public policy, expectations and standards, early childhood, gifted and talented programming, literacy development, mathematics, college- and career- readiness, mental health and safety, partnerships and mentoring, and community involvement. (2012)

<https://tinyurl.com/yap8zll8>



Re-envisioning English Language Arts and English Language Development for English Language Learners. A framework for acquiring English and attaining content mastery across the grades in an era when new college- and career-readiness standards require more reading in all subject areas. (2014, 2017)

<http://tinyurl.com/yasg9xc4>



A Framework for Re-envisioning Mathematics Instruction for English Language Learners. A guide for looking at the interdependence of language and mathematics to assist students with the use of academic language in acquiring a deep conceptual understanding of mathematics and applying mathematics in real world problems. (2016)

<http://tinyurl.com/y7flpyoz>

- *Butterfly Video:* A 10-minute video of a New York City kindergarten ELL classroom illustrating Lily Wong Fillmore's technique for ensuring that all students can access complex text using academic vocabulary and build confidence in the use of complex sentences as they study the metamorphosis of butterflies.

<https://vimeo.com/47315992>

Assessing District Implementation of the Standards



Indicators of Success: A Guide for Assessing District Level Implementation of College and Career-Readiness Standards. A set of indicators districts might use to track their implementation of college- and career-readiness standards. Indicators are divided into seven sections, including: vision and goal setting, resource allocation, parent and community outreach, curriculum and instruction, professional development, assessment, and student data. Each section provides descriptions of what “on track” or “off track” might look like, along with examples of evidence to look at in determining effective implementation. (2016)

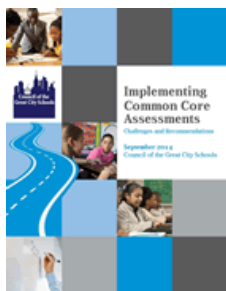
<http://tinyurl.com/hh6kesd>



Calendar of Questions. A series of questions about ongoing Common Core implementation arranged by month, focusing on particular aspects of implementation for staff roles at various levels of the district, as well as milestones for parents and students. (2013)

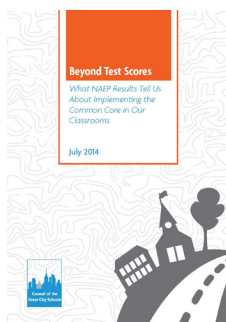
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Implementing Standards-based Assessments



Implementing the Common Core Assessments: Challenges and Recommendations. A summary of the PARCC and SBAC assessments, challenges in implementing large scale on-line assessment, and recommendations for successfully implementing them. (2014)

<https://www.cgcs.org/cms/lib/DC00001581/Centricity/Domain/87/Implementing%20Common%20Core%20Assessments-2014.pdf>



Beyond Test Scores: What NAEP Results Tell Us About Implementing the Common Core in Our Classrooms. An analysis of results on four sample NAEP items—two in mathematics and two in ELA— that are most like the ones students will be seeing in their classwork and on the new common core-aligned assessments. In this booklet, the Council shows how students did on these questions, discusses what may have been missing from their instruction, and outlines what changes to curriculum and instruction might help districts and schools advance student achievement. It also poses a series of questions that district leaders should be asking themselves about curriculum, professional development, and other instructional supports. (2014)

[https://www.cgcs.org/cms/lib/DC00001581/Centricity/Domain/87/Beyond Test Score_ July 2014.pdf](https://www.cgcs.org/cms/lib/DC00001581/Centricity/Domain/87/Beyond%20Test%20Scores_July%202014.pdf)

Resources for Parents about the Standards



A series of parent roadmaps to the Common Core in English Language Arts and literacy, grades K-12 in English and grades K-8 in Spanish. (2012)

<https://www.cgcs.org/Page/330> (English)

<https://www.cgcs.org/domain/148> (Spanish)



A series of parent roadmaps to the Common Core in mathematics, grades K-12 in English and K-8 in Spanish. (2012)

<https://www.cgcs.org/Page/366> (English)

<https://www.cgcs.org/Page/367> (Spanish)

Coming Soon!

The Great City Schools Professional Learning Platform. A series of 10 video-based courses for school administrators and teachers who are working to enhance the literacy skills of struggling readers. (2017)