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Implementing the Common Core Standards (ICCS)

Dear colleagues,

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is pleased to announce the release of an updated edition of our [Common Core Implementation Tools and Resources Guide](#). CCSSO developed this list of free tools and resources to point states, districts, and educators to promising ideas and tools to support the implementation of the Common Core State Standards. This guide is free and you are welcome to distribute this document widely and post it directly to your website.

The Common Core Implementation Tools and Resources Guide primarily lists free resources developed by CCSSO, the lead writers of the standards, and our partner organizations, and is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all resources available. Please do not hesitate to reach out to [CCSSO](#) to suggest additional tools to add to the guide.

Thank you,
CCSSO's Common Core Implementation Team

Featured in this newsletter:

- New Report Available on State Progress on Implementing the Common Core
- Support Videos for the Common Core in Mathematics
- **Action Briefs to Help School Leaders Support Common Core Implementation**
- Learning Forward Releases Professional Learning Policy Workbook
- CCSSO to Host Event with State Chiefs to Discuss New Accountability Systems

New Report Available on State Progress on Implementing the Common Core

On February 4, 2013, Education First and the EPE Research Center released a second annual look at state implementation of the Common Core State Standards. The new report, "[Moving Ahead: A National Perspective on States' Progress in Common Core State Standards Implementation Planning](#)" found states making progress in three key areas: professional development for teachers, developing instructional materials, and devising teacher-evaluation systems linked to the new standards.

Support Videos for the Common Core in Mathematics

The Southeast Comprehensive Center developed [Common Core State Standards \(CCSS\) videos](#) to support states, schools, and teachers in the implementation of the CCSS. The videos were created in collaboration with the states in the Southeast Comprehensive Center region based on their need for professional development support for the implementation of the Common Core. Each video is an audiovisual resource that focuses on one or more specific standards and usually includes examples/illustrations geared to enhancing understanding. The intent of each content-focused video is to clarify the meaning of the individual standard rather than to be a guide on how to teach each standard, although the examples can be adapted for instructional use.

Action Briefs to Help School Leaders Support Common Core Implementation

Achieve, in partnership with College Summit, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), has released a series of [action briefs on the role of school counselors, secondary school leaders, and elementary school leaders](#) in the implementation of the Common Core. The action briefs provide school leaders with a deeper understanding of the Common Core and spell out the leaders' critical role in implementation.

Learning Forward Releases Professional Learning Policy Workbook for States and Districts

Learning Forward recently released the [Professional Learning Policy Review: A Workbook for States and Districts](#), authored by Joellen Killion. This workbook provides states and local school districts with guidance to conduct a review of existing policies related to professional learning. The review process includes discovery, analysis, recommendations for possible policy revision, and follow-up.

SunWise Shade Poster Contest

Poster contest for kids! Students in grades K-8 are invited to help raise awareness about sun safety and win great prizes by entering the 2013 *SunWise* with SHADE Poster Contest, organized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency *SunWise* program and the SHADE Foundation of America.

Original, hand-drawn posters (8.5x11") must show five sun safety action steps. The due date is April 1st, and the national winner will receive a family trip to Disney World and a Shade 'N Net shade structure for his/her school. Top posters will be displayed at the National Children's Museum. Contest details and the entry form are available at: www.shadefoundation.org/poster-contest.php

Farm to School Grant Program

The Farm to School Grant Program is part of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which authorized and funded USDA to assist eligible entities, through grants and technical assistance, in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. The Act provides \$5 million annually to support grants, technical assistance, and the federal administrative costs related to USDA's Farm to School Program. Proposals are due at midnight EST, April 24, 2013. To assist eligible entities in preparing proposals:

Webinars to Learn More

To assist eligible entities in preparing proposals, USDA will host a series of webinars related to the application process:

March 5, 2013, 1:00 EST – Planning Grants

March 6, 2013, 1:00 EST – Implementation Grants

March 7, 2013, 1:00 EST – Support Service Grants

Coming soon – grants.gov webinar



Farm to School - Learn more at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/f2s/> or contact us at farmtoschool@fns.usda.gov.

March Health and Wellness Observances

National School Breakfast Week is March 4 – 8 - <http://www.schoolnutrition.org/>

National Youth Violence Prevention Week is March 18 – 22 - <http://nationalsave.org/event/national-youth-violence-prevention-week/>

National Nutrition Month- <http://www.eatright.org/>

Workplace and Sports Eye Safety Month- <http://www.preventblindness.org/>

The Florida Statewide Tobacco Prevention and Intervention Training Course

Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable illness and death in the United States.

The School District of Palm Beach County assists the DOE, Office of Healthy Schools by delivering statewide professional development course in tobacco prevention and intervention education. The program provides training to educators so they can teach students to make healthy decisions regarding tobacco use. It is offered to Florida D.O.E. certified teachers (*at no cost*) with the capability of teaching at least six lessons which are aligned to NGSSS. The website is maintained as a public resource for anyone to use. <http://www.tobaccopreventiontraining.org/>

Teaching about healthy decisions is a school-wide responsibility. Administrators, all subject areas teachers K-12, and guidance counselors are taking the course to integrate lessons in their diverse settings. Upon completion of the course, graduates may receive *up to 60 teacher in-service credits*. The following program participants taught at least six lessons to their students who are now equipped to make healthy decisions about tobacco.

Graduate	County
Kelly H.	Broward
Courtney K.	Clay
Ilene L.	Dade
Jessica K.	Dade
Shannon D.	Dade
Amy S.	Dade
Maria F.	Dade
Mercedes C.	Dade
Daren J.	Marion
Lelani F.	Nassau
Allyson G.	Palm Beach
Guillermo B.	Palm Beach
Mary R.	Palm Beach
Kerrie D.	Pinellas
Stacey H.	Sarasota
Jack B.	Volusia
Laura T.	Wakulla

Over 570 Florida educators registered for the course this school year from 48 different school districts in both public and private schools.

Celebrate Literacy, January 14-18, 2013

As a part of Florida's Celebrate Literacy Week, January 14-18, 2013, a tri-agency collaboration of the Florida Departments of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Education, and Health provided volunteers the opportunity to read *James Wakes Up To School Breakfast* to over 50,000 K-2 students. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services developed, printed, and distributed over 2,790 *James Wakes Up To School Breakfast* books throughout 53 districts resulting in students learning about the benefits of eating breakfast and understanding that schools can be a welcoming place to eat this important meal.

"We are delighted to have the health department director and employees stop by to read to our students," said Judi Winch, principal of Westside Elementary School. "We want our students to be reminded of the importance of eating healthy and how that influences their educational success." (Volusia County Health Department)

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching are the Nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science. The Awards recognize outstanding K-12 teachers for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession. Nominations for mathematics and science teachers of **grades 7-12** are open until April 1, 2013. The applications are due by May 1, 2013. For additional information please visit: <https://www.paemst.org>.

Florida Sunshine State Scholar Program

The Sunshine State Scholars event was held on Feb. 21 – Feb. 22, 2013 at the Doubletree Hotel at Universal in Orlando, FL. The event recognizes Florida's top STEM students and introduces them to the vast postsecondary and career opportunities available right here in their home state. Scholars from each of Florida's school districts were honored and each scholar received a mini iPad and tickets to Universal. For more information on the Sunshine State Scholar Program please visit: <http://www.floridaeducationfoundation.org/meetings/2013-sunshine-state-scholars-program>.

State Science and Engineering Fair Florida

The 58th State Science and Engineering fair will be held March 26-27, 2013 at the Lakeland Center in Lakeland, Florida. The exhibit hall opens to the public on March 27 from 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM. For more information please visit: <http://www.floridassef.net/>.

The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) will be in Phoenix, Arizona, May 12-17, 2013. For more information on Intel ISEF please visit: <http://www.societyforscience.org/isef>.

Florida Engineering Education Conference (FEEC)

On **April 26, 2013**, the University of Central Florida's College of Engineering and Computer Science (CECS), is hosting the Eighth Annual Florida Engineering Education Conference (FEEC) at the UCF's FAIRWINDS Alumni Center. In recognition of the importance of DoD to our national security and their many contributions to STEM education, this year's conference is focusing on "DoD engineering education programs". There is no cost for attending this event. Registration is open at <http://partner.cecs.ucf.edu/FEE/Profile/login.asp>.

Algebra Nation

Algebra Nation is a free supplemental online resource developed by the University of Florida in partnership with Study Edge. Algebra Nation components that teachers can incorporate into their lesson plans and End-of-Course exam preparation include video content review sessions, study guides, an interactive Algebra Wall, and a variety of digital tools To learn more visit <http://algebranation.com/about/about-algebra-nation/>.