Implementing the Common Core State Standards

State Spotlights

Table of Contents

Introduction

As of the 2012-2013 school year, over 20 states have formally moved to the Common Core State Standards being used as the learning expectations for all students across the state, and the remainder will be doing so in the 2014-2015 school year (see here for a map of state-by-state implementation timelines). This document highlights state initiatives that are supporting Common Core implementation in the following areas:

- Communication and Engagement
- System alignment and systems change
- Educator supports

The Common Core State Standards will impact student learning through improvements in instruction and clarity of purpose between educators, students, and parents. Once implemented, the standards will result in more students having the powerful, engaging, and challenging learning experiences that prepare them for success in college and career. The next year of Common Core implementation is critical not only because of the ongoing process of enactment but also because of the release of the next generation assessments. Additionally, critics of the Common Core State Standards are becoming more forceful requiring states to enhance their communication, stakeholder engagement, system alignment, and educator and student support systems.

The following spotlights are offered to:

- provide resources and examples of states enacting successful communication campaigns; and

- provide all states with quick access to sample practices they can quickly and easily review.

We hope that this document can serve as a resource and will facilitate ongoing networking between states, districts, educators, and parents. This is intended to be a quick reference document to support the sharing of innovative practices and lessons learned. Examples are fluid and were chosen based on quality and accessibility of information via the web. CCSSO will continue to update this document and release it to state chiefs and state education agency (SEA) staff. If you have a resource you would like to share from your state, please contact Shannon Glynn at shannong@ccsso.org.

In addition to this document featuring spotlights on state Common Core implementation, CCSSO also maintains the Common Core Implementation Tools and Resources Guide—an updated list of free resources that CCSSO and others have developed to support Common Core State Standards implementation. It is available on the CCSSO website:
http://www.ccsso.org/Resources/Publications/Common_Core_State_Standards_Implementation_Tools_and_Resources.html

Communication and Engagement Tools

Ongoing, two-way communication must occur between students, parents, teachers, school and district leaders, community members, higher education faculty, business leaders, the media, and state policymakers to ensure that the standards are understood and to guarantee continued support.

In 2012, Kentucky released the first round of data from their Common Core-aligned assessment. After the information was public, the state sent a press release outlining the communication and outreach strategies they employed to ensure a smooth release of assessment and accountability data. States can use the information in this document to engage the community, parents, educators, and administrators and should consider compiling similar documents outlining their communications strategies to assist other states.

A state website should include an obvious and easily accessible section on the transition to the standards. Additionally, they should have readily available facts on the standards in order to combat falsehoods. Below are examples of states that extend their engagement strategies well beyond the state education agency home page, including developing new educator-focused websites, collaboration sites, videos, and public awareness campaigns.

CCSSO has also developed a communications toolkit to assist states in thinking through how to develop a communications plan. SEA staff that would like to access this toolkit should contact Shannon Glynn, shannong@ccsso.org. There are additional communications tools available on the ICCS collaboration site (a password-protected site for state education agency staff. If you need to get added to the system, please contact Shannon Glynn). Under Communities, select View Libraries, then Implementing the Common Core State Standards. From there, select the Communications folder. There you will find Customizable Brochures on the Common Core State Standards for different audiences, including parents, educators, district leaders, higher education faculty, school leaders and the business community, and the resources that were shared during a communications webinar in March.

Communicate Common Core

Engaging through social media, linking sources from validators, and displaying myth/facts and other resources prominently on the state's website provide easy public access to communication tools.

Title: *Common Core State Standards FAQ*
State: Hawaii
The Hawaii department of education website includes a link to commonly asked questions about the Common Sore State Standards. The comprehensive document addresses many facets of the Common Core and provides detailed information on implementation.
http://doe.k12.hi.us/curriculum/commoncore/CCSSFAQfinal.pdf

Title: *Why the Common Core State Standards are Good for New Hampshire*
State: New Hampshire
New Hampshire's Common Core website links to a defense of the standards and explanation of why they will be good for the state. http://www.education.nh.gov/spotlight/ccss/why_for_nh.htm

Title: *About Common Core*
State: Tennessee

On Tennessee's comprehensive Common Core website, a tab takes visitors to an explanation of the standards and why Tennessee adopted them. It also includes a video presentation outlining the 2013-2014 implementation plan and a podcast. http://www.tncore.org/about_common_core.aspx

Comprehensive Website

Title: *Engage NY website*
State: New York
Engage NY is an evolving, collaborative platform for educators within three major areas: Common Core State Standards, data-driven instruction cycle and school-based inquiry, and teacher and leader effectiveness.
http://www.engageny.org

Title: *TNCore.org*
State: Tennessee
Tennessee has a user friendly website dedicated to the Common Core. It is updated frequently, and links to several video presentation targeting parents, administrators, and educators outlining facts about the Common Core. http://www.tncore.org/

Title: New Mexico Common Core State Standards Website
The New Mexico Common Core website provides a one-stop site where students, parents, teachers, and administrators can learn about the Common Core. The home page also links to the state's transition timeline, its guiding principles for standards implementation, FAQs, and an explanation of how the Common Core is different from New Mexico's current standards.
http://newmexicocommoncore.org/

Title: *Wisconsin's Common Core State Implementation Center*
State: Wisconsin
The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction created a comprehensive Common Core website that includes a document detailing why the state adopted the Common Core and combating myths about the standards. Additionally, the website includes links to professional learning resources, assessment information, and detailed standard information. http://commoncore.dpi.wi.gov/

Title: *GeorgiaStandards.org*
State: Georgia
This website provides information for teachers, parents, and administrators on the Common Core. The home page also includes resources and videos, professional learning, and content area framework information to provide in-depth information, facts, and examples of the Common Core State Standards and implementation in Georgia.
https://www.georgiastandards.org/Pages/Default.aspx

COLLABORATION SITE:
Title: *Common Core in Vermont*
State: Vermont
Vermont has set up an online collaboration site for Vermont educators that includes presentations, tools, and resources. This collaboration site is a strong example of promoting two-way

communications—to both push out key messages and information and also learn from the high-quality work of educators across the state.
http://ve2.vermont.gov/c_c_s_s

Videos

Title: *Ready Podcasts for Teachers, Principals and Parents*
State: North Carolina
"Ready," North Carolina's Race to the Top initiative, has produced dozens of free podcasts on educator effectiveness, Common Core Implementation, assessments and other topics that serve as wonderful outreach and communication tools. The podcasts and videos are housed on iTunes and are free to download and listen to. https://itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/ready/id415314572

Title: *Georgia Department of Education on ITunes University*
State: Georgia
GeorgiaStandards.org includes a tab that links to ITunes University, allowing visitors to download over 1,000 best practice videos demonstrating effective implementation of Common Core in the classroom. https://www.georgiastandards.org/Resources/Pages/Videos/VideosandPodcasts.aspx

Title: *Making the Transition to the Common Core State Standards: ELA and Literacy*
State: Indiana
This mini-series is designed to provide an efficient pathway for understanding and implementing the most significant shifts in English language arts and literacy instruction. The shifts presented are: 1) emphasizing informational text; 2) literacy standards for all content areas; 3) text complexity; and 4) special place of argument. http://www.doe.in.gov/achievement/curriculum/making-transition

Title: *Clearer and Higher: Why Students Need the Common Core*
State: Ohio
The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has produced a four-minute video on the Common Core State Standards and assessments to explain the standards to teachers, parents, and a variety of stakeholders.
The department is offering the video, *Clearer and Higher: Why Students Need the Common Core,* under the Creative Commons license so states wishing to use the video may add state-specific information. The video is available for download from the department's website in two different formats (MP4 and WMV). It is also available on the ODE YouTube site.
Video (MP4 and MWV):
http://education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?Page=3&TopicRelationID=1695&Content=129780
ODE YouTube site: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yll0fJrUAWE&feature=plcp

Title: *Videos for Parents and Families About the Common Core Assessments*
State: New York
New York State Education Commissioner John King released a video for parents and families that prepares them for the upcoming Common Core assessments. This video is a useful tool for engaging parents in Common Core implementation and the upcoming assessments.
http://www.engageny.org/resource/video-for-parents-and-families-about-the-common-core-assessments

Outreach

Media engagement is an important component to successful Common Core implementation, but it must be tied with robust outreach to stakeholders if states are going to be successful in their communication efforts.

Title: *Wisconsin and the Common Core State Standards Information Pamphlet*
State: Wisconsin
Preemptively, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction released a pamphlet providing general information on the Common Core State Standards and combating common myths and facts. The pamphlet can be found on their Common Core website
http://standards.dpi.wi.gov/files/standards/pdf/45%20WI%20CCSS.pdf. Wisconsin also released a brochure outlining how the standards will relate to students with significant cognitive disabilities. http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/files/sped/pdf/assmt-ccee-brochure.pdf

Title: *Delaware Department of Education*
State: Delaware
The Delaware Common Core's user friendly website links to information, tools, and resources for parents, teachers, and administrators for the Math and English Language Arts standards.
http://www.doe.k12.de.us/commoncore/

Title: *Utah State Board of Education Core Standards Brochure*
State: Utah
The Utah State Board of Education compiled a Utah specific myth/fact sheet targeted toward parents and the public. http://www.schools.utah.gov/core/Parents/coreStandardsPamphlet.aspx

Title: *Common Core State Standards Overview for Parents*
State: Tennessee
TNCore.org links to a free iTunes video that provides an overview of the Common Core for parents. https://itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/common-core-state-standards/id554518617?mt=10%20

Business Engagement

Title: Ready Kentucky: Building Employer Support for Student Success
State: Kentucky
The Kentucky Chamber Foundation, in partnership with the state Department of Education, is working to raise employer awareness of and support for the Common Core State Standards and the positive impact they will have on preparing students for success in both college and the workplace. The kit offers communications tools that Kentucky employers can use to let their employees know about the new standards and what they mean for their communities and state. The kit includes FAQs, a sample newsletter item, an example of an e-mail message and resource information. The foundation has also produced an informational brochure titled "New Standards, New Tests, New Scores" that is available online.
Kit: Contact Aimee Hiller from the Kentucky Chamber Foundation, ahiller@kychamber.com
Brochure: http://kychamberblog.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/standardsbrochure.pdf

System Alignment and Systems Change

Implementation of the Common Core State Standards calls for systems alignment that creates clarity for teachers and seamless transitions for students. The early childhood, K-12, and higher education communities in states must collaborate to create aligned, coherent systems that demonstrate a logical progression of learning that prepares all students for success. As most states prepare to administer Common Core-aligned assessments in 2014-2015, system alignment and change has become even more critical. Accountability systems, teacher and principal preparation, educator licensure, professional development, and educator evaluation policies and practices must be aligned to and consistent with the Common Core State Standards in order to avoid conflicting messages to educators.

Although this document spotlights state actions in many of the elements of implementation of the Common Core State Standards, implementation is best understood as a systemic approach. Successful states have a clear vision and direction for student learning that connects all of the various components of the system and that involves the ongoing engagement of educator and community members not just in *what* to do, but also *why*. That is, successful states keep the ultimate vision out front and connect every element of work back to the vision.

> **Title:** *Tennessee Common Core Leadership Council*
> **State:** Tennessee
> In February 2012, Tennessee announced the formation of a Common Core Leadership Council to give districts a voice in the statewide transition to the Common Core. The council membership includes thirteen directors, supervisors, and an assistant principal, hailing from across the state. The council is tasked with advising department officials on formal and informal assessments and professional development resources; shaping the framework for all Common Core pilot programs; and becoming regional experts and leaders in the importance and concrete expectations of the standards. The council also selected and trained exemplary educators to facilitate summer training on the Common Core.
> Council: https://news.tn.gov/node/8421
> Educator Training: https://news.tn.gov/node/10475
>
> **Title:** Kentucky College and Career Readiness Delivery Plan
> As part of its College and Career Readiness for All initiative, Kentucky wrote a comprehensive College and Career Readiness delivery plan that lays out the vision, target goals, and the timeline and strategies it will pursue in achieving its goals. It is a systemic approach to improving education delivery in Kentucky. The plan sets clear targets and clear strategies to meet those targets. It also identifies a delivery chain and the obstacles to successful delivery, noting the risks and how each one might be mitigated.
> Delivery Plan: http://education.ky.gov/COMMOFED/CDU/Pages/CCR.aspx
> Career Readiness for All Home page:
> http://education.ky.gov/cte/cter/pages/careerreadiness.aspx
>
> **Title:** Louisiana Integration Project
> Louisiana's Integration Project makes purposeful links between educator evaluation and Common Core and assessment implementation.
> http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/19345.pdf **(See pages 128-129)**

Assessments and Accountability

As states move forward with Common Core State Standard implementation, 2014 stands out as an extremely important year. This is when the new assessments and accountability systems will be enacted in many states. PARCC and Smarter Balanced will have released their assessments based upon the Common Core, impacting student achievement and educator evaluations systems. The assessments represent a significant shift in education policy and many SEAs are preparing educators, districts, communities, and parents for these changes in advance. Communication efforts, outreach, conferences, and comprehensive websites that include tools and resources directed toward both the public and educators are critical to preparing for the change.

Title: *Collaborative Conference for Student Achievement*
State: North Carolina
At North Carolina's Collaborative Conference for Student Achievement, there was a power point presentation that discusses standards, assessment, and accountability and how to ensure a smooth transition toward implementation.
http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/academicservices/conference/2013/presentations/7.pdf.
North Carolina has also developed a website accessible from the Common Core portion of the SEAs site to include information about assessments. It provides sample forms, tutorials and other information to prepare educators and the public for the assessments.
http://maccss.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/Assessment

Title: *Alternative Achievement Standards: The Common Core Essential Elements*
State: Wisconsin
As outlined in their multi-year plan for Common Core implementation, Wisconsin will adopt the Smarter Balanced assessment in 2014-2015. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has a page dedicated to information on the next generation and alternative assessment for students with severe cognitive disabilities. http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/oea_wiassessmt

Title: *Common Assessment*
State: Idaho
The Idaho State Department of Education includes extensive information on the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium that districts will be administrating beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/commonAssessment/. While the assessments continue to be developed, the website links to updates, modules, practice problems, and webinars on the assessments. http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/common/commonCorePD.htm

Engaging Higher Education

The higher education community is a critical partner in standards implementation several ways. First, institutions of higher education are often responsible for preparing future educators through teacher preparation programs and for providing professional learning opportunities to practicing educators. Second, the K-12 and higher education communities must have a common understanding of college-readiness so that students matriculating into two and four year colleges and universities after high school are ready to meet the institution's performance expectations. Third, researchers from institutions of higher education are the best suited partners to study the ongoing impact of the implementation of the Common Core in local schools. This section highlights ways to leverage existing entities to establish relationships and to create venues for collaboration.

STATEWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY
Title: *Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education Strategic Agenda Focus on College Readiness*
State: Kentucky
The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education describes its "Strategic Agenda Focus On College Readiness" goal—*Kentucky will be stronger by ensuring more high school graduates, GED graduates, and working-age adults enter college prepared for credit-bearing work*—and Policy Objective 1—"Increase the number of college-ready Kentuckians entering postsecondary education." Its webpage describes several strategies to achieve the goal and objective.

This entity was created in 1997 through legislation. Many states have statewide coordinating agencies for higher education that state education agencies should consider engaging in the implementation process. When looking to engage any stakeholder or partner, look for existing entities that would be a natural partner in your work.

If your state does not have such an agency and you are not interested in pursuing legislation to create one, you could also consider an executive order to create a council to establish the work and relationships.
http://cpe.ky.gov/planning/strongerbydegrees/collegereadiness-update-obj1.htm

ALIGNING SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION
Title: *High School-Higher Education Alignment Initiative*
State: Ohio
Using Race to the Top funding, the Ohio Department of Education collaborated with the Ohio Board of Regents and developed the High School-Higher Education Alignment Initiative. The initiative consists of fourteen partnerships of high school, higher education, career-technical and supporting institutions that were given grants to align curriculum in English Language Arts and Mathematics, align teacher preparation programs to meet Ohio's new rigorous content standards and provide on-going data exchange between high schools and higher education institutions to promote greater student mobility and college success.
http://education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=1887&ContentID=112628

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING COLLEGE-READINESS
Title: *College Entry-Level Competencies*
State: Missouri
Missouri's Department of Higher Education set criteria for assessing college readiness, working "closely with faculty and academic officers from public and private colleges and universities, as well as representatives from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and local school districts, to identify entry-level competencies for college-bound students."

The competencies align with the Common Core State Standards for language arts and mathematics adopted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education last year. The release of the college-ready competencies was delayed until the higher education sector could analyze the Common Core State Standards to ensure the standards were consistent with the expectations of the state's public colleges and universities.

If you are looking to initiate conversations with your state's higher education community, you may want to consider using the competencies developed here as a starting point for your conversation about determining college readiness in your state.
http://dhe.mo.gov/news/show.php?u=College_readiness_criteria&yr=2011

COLLEGE READINESS TRANSITION PROJECT
Title: *SREB College Readiness Transition Project*
States: Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia
SREB has developed a model college- and career-readiness agenda composed of six interrelated and essential components including:

- College- and career-readiness standards that are universal and statewide.
- Assessments of state-adopted standards with qualifying scores denoting readiness.
- Public school curriculum that aligns with college- and career-readiness standards.
- Assurance from public higher education that standards will be used for college placement.
- Statewide professional development plans for teachers to implement standards.
- State accountability programs that incorporate the college- and career-readiness standards.

In testing these six components, SREB reviews the progress in these six states to improve readiness, suggest ways to build on existing policy, research and practice, and engage state leaders to develop and implement transitional senior-year courses in mathematics and English/language arts.

To do the same in your state, SREB proposes the following steps:
1. Convene statewide committees of higher education and K-12 education representatives, faculty, and state-level curriculum and assessment officials.
2. Analyze the extent to which state readiness standards are highlighted in existing senior-year course work, ascertaining not only whether the specific skills are taught but the intensity with which they are targeted.
3. Using this gap analysis, identify how readiness standards can be emphasized through new or revised curricula, such as different courses or modules.
4. Develop course specifications or guidelines for other types of learning activities, including content standards and expected performance levels, and identify effective ways to deliver such instruction.
5. Analyze how a state's current curricula and policies will accommodate such changes and explore necessary policy recommendations.

To learn more, visit http://www.sreb.org/page/1508/transitional_course_information.html

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: Janice Poda, CCSSO, janicep@ccsso.org

EDUCATOR SUPPORTS

The Common Core does not dictate how teachers should teach; those decisions will remain at the local level. Therefore, educators need the tools, guidance, and professional learning experiences that help them understand the standards deeply; develop curricula, lessons and units, and aligned assessments; and, locate and evaluate if instructional materials are aligned to the Common Core. It is vital to the implementation of the Common Core that educators teach rich, engaging lessons that foster students' love of learning while challenging them to meet the high expectations in literacy and mathematics outlined in the Common Core.

Curriculum

MODEL CURRICULUM AND CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS
Title: *Maryland Common Core State Curriculum Frameworks, Reading/ELA PK- 12*
State: Maryland
These are frameworks that "unpack" the CCSS and identify the essential skills and knowledge that a student would need in order to master the grade specific standards. These frameworks were developed with the input of educators across the state, who identified the essential skills and knowledge connected with each standard. The statements are intended to help teachers develop common understandings and valuable insights into what a student must know and be able to do to demonstrate proficiency with the standard. The draft frameworks will be introduced to teachers and administrators at the state's Educator Effectiveness Academies this summer. Maryland also plans to develop an online toolkit to support these frameworks over the next few years. Together, the toolkit and frameworks will become the Maryland Common Core State Curriculum.
http://mdk12.org/instruction/curriculum/reading/index.html

Title: *Indiana Curriculum Maps*
State: Indiana
This website has links with information about the process Indiana has developed to provide curriculum maps for the new standards to support local implementation.
https://learningconnection.doe.in.gov/ArticleViewer.aspx?art=10

Title: *Sample Curriculum Maps*
State: Kentucky
To help educators as they determine how to pace their year in order to cover all content, Kentucky compiled curriculum maps from districts and schools and housed them on this website.
http://education.ky.gov/curriculum/docs/cm/Pages/default.aspx

Title: *Ohio Model Curriculum*
State: Ohio
In 2011, Ohio adopted model curriculum for each grade in English Language Arts (ELA) and math. The model curriculum was written by Ohio educators to support the implementation of the Common Core Standards. In addition to the model curriculum, Ohio provides transition and implementation tools for educators. Local control states may want to consider these kinds of models when determining how to support educators while honoring the right of school district to set curriculum.

Ohio English Language Arts Model Curriculum:
http://education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=1699&ContentID=125882&Content=142165
Ohio Math Model Curriculum:
http://education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=1704&ContentID=126041&Content=142872

Title: *Models of Curriculum – Resources for Diverse Learners*
State: Ohio
This document presents strategies for meeting the needs of all learners including gifted students, English language learners (ELL) and students with disabilities. Resources are based on the Universal Design for Learning principles.
http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=1696&ContentID=83819&Content=105524

Title: *Hawaii Standards Database*
State: Hawaii
The Hawaii Standards Database contains curriculum resources, example videos, webinars, power points and many other Common Core and curriculum information for educators, administrators and districts as they move toward adoption of the English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards.
http://wetserver.net/hcpsv3_staging/cc/common-core.jsp

UNPACKING STANDARDS
Title: *NC Common Core Instructional Support Tools*
State: North Carolina
This toolkit supports teachers in understanding CCSS by demonstrating "at a granular level the knowledge and skills students are expected to master at a particular grade." It unpacks the standards for all grades in both ELA and Math.
http://www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/standards/common-core-tools/#unpacking

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DISTRICTS
Title: ASCD Article: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Focusing on Technical Assistance
A July 2012 article posted to ASCD's Core Connections highlights Missouri's efforts to develop close working relationships with districts. A local school district, in conjunction with the department, developed a professional development series around the Common Core State Standards, with the focus on ELA at the elementary level and math and ELA at the high school level. The work that they developed has been modified as needed for a statewide audience and is being delivered through a series of train-the-trainer events.
Article: http://www.ascd.org/common-core/core-connection/072512-sea-focusing-on-technical-assistance.aspx

TEACHING TOOLS
Title: *Teaching Tools*
State: Kentucky
Teaching Tools is the result of data and feedback from educators and partners throughout Kentucky. The tools are designed to provide teachers, schools and districts with a community of learning

where standards-based resources can be shared and utilized.
http://education.ky.gov/curriculum/docs/tt/Pages/default.aspx

District Planning

DISTRICT TOOLKITS AND TEMPLATES
Title: Common Core State Standards Tool Box
State: Idaho
Idaho developed Common Core tool boxes for ELA and mathematics. Each tool box provides an overview of the standards, instructional materials and resources, professional development resources, and information on the new assessments.
ELA: http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/common/ELAcore/
Math: http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/common/mathCore/

Title: *Colorado's District Sample Curriculum Project*
State: Colorado
Over 500 Colorado educators representing 61 school districts participated in curriculum design workshops resulting in the creation of 670 curriculum samples based on the Common Core. These voluntary resources provide guidance and structure for educators as they work to address grade-level expectations, evidence outcomes, and build 21st Century Skills required by the standards.
http://www.cde.state.co.us/StandardsAndInstruction/SampleCurriculumProject.asp

Title: *Kansas ELA Text Complexity Rubrics and Resources*
State: Kansas
The Kansas state education agency collaborated with educators in the state to develop a summer academy that provides educators with comprehensive resource information about the Common Core. Specifically, Kansas developed tools for helping educators better understand how to evaluate text complexity.
http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=5162

Title: *Standards Implementation Toolkit*
State: Colorado
This comprehensive toolkit provides a timeline and resources related to transitioning to the Colorado Academic Standards, including updating local standards, design curricula, comparison tools, and design tools. It identifies four stages of implementation and provides a corresponding toolkit for districts to use in each stage. Each area includes a description and list of suggested action steps and resources needed to move forward with implementation. Colorado is a local control state that cannot develop a state-mandated curriculum due to constitutional provisions that leave curriculum development to local school districts. States that have similar constraints might look to this toolkit as a way to support districts while respecting their authority to develop curriculum.
http://www.cde.state.co.us/sitoolkit/index.htm

Title: *Common Core State Standards Toolkit*
State: Oregon
Oregon created customized CCSS implementation toolkits for administrators, teachers, early childhood educators, and parents and students. The toolkits are divided into phases of implementation: Awareness and Dissemination, Transition, Implementation, Evaluate and Refine.

All toolkits: http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3430
Oregon's toolkit recognizes the importance of reaching out to the early childhood community to ensure they are aware of the new standards and what children will be expected to learn in kindergarten. Included is the toolkit is a one-page document that Oregon has developed that succinctly explains why it is important for early childhood educators to be familiar with the CCSS.
Early childhood toolkit: http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3548
Early childhood one-page brochure:
http://www.ode.state.or.us/wma/teachlearn/commoncore/early-childhood-flyer.pdf

Title: *District Implementation Plan (Template, Timeline, and Guiding Questions)*
State: Oklahoma
Oklahoma provides templates for districts to use as they plan transition to CCSS. Two blank templates, a timeline, and a set of guiding questions to support planning are also available.
http://www.ok.gov/sde/oklahoma-c3-standards

TRANSITION PLAN
Title: *Delaware's Transition from Adoption to Implementation*
State: Delaware
This one-page timeline outlines Delaware's transition from adoption to implementation in four phases. While more detailed implementation plans are essential for internal state education agency planning, distilling your implementation plan into its essential elements is an important tool for educating the public about the transition to the new standards. For states that need an outline for establishing a plan, the phases outlined here could serve as the basis for writing a transition plan.
http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/staff/ci/content_areas/files/ela/CCSSTransitionPlanChartMarch2012.pdf

Instructional Change

Title: *Common Core Instructional Shifts*
State: New York
This resource describes in detail the Common Core shifts needed to effectively implement the standards in ELA/literacy and math. Note that New York refers to six shifts in ELA and math, whereas the Student Achievement Partners' www.achievethecore.org website distills the shifts into three for each subject.
http://engageny.org/resource/common-core-shifts/

Title: New York State Common Core Sample Questions
State: New York
The New York State Education Department developed a teaching tool for educators that features a series of sample questions that demonstrate the instructional shifts in the ELA and math Common Core Standards. These samples are also a good resource to aid students and parents in understanding what the new standards will look like in the classroom. The sample questions are available for grades three through eight in both subjects. For each grade level and subject, there are approximately twelve questions, which include multiple choice, short constructed response, and extended constructed response. Read a more detailed overview of this resource and download the samples through NYSED's website.
http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/common-core-sample-questions/

EDUCATOR-DEVELOPED LESSONS AND TOOLS
Title: West Virginia's *Teach21* website

West Virginia's *Teach 21* website contains educator-developed resources aligned to the Common Core State Standards (which WV calls their Content Standards and Objectives - CSOs) and the state's other standards. The website contains interactive digital resources, including [Interactive CSOs](#), [NxG CSOs for ELA and Mathematics](#), [Strategy Bank](#), and [Instructional Guides](#) aligned to the Common Core. Since the state implemented the kindergarten standards in the 2011-2012 school year, the *Teach 21* website includes many rich lessons and resources developed by teachers on the kindergarten ELA and math standards.
http://wvde.state.wv.us/teach21/

Title: *The Common Core: Idaho Educators Share Their Advice and Tips*
State: Idaho

The Idaho State Department of Education developed a website devoted to educators sharing advice and tips on common core instruction. http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/common/tips_advice.htm

MATHEMATICAL PRACTICES
Title: *K-8 Kansas Common Core Flip-books*

These flip-books make links between the mathematical practices and the content of the Common Core Standards. They include instructional strategies and examples for each mathematical practice standard at each grade level. The materials are posted on the Kansas Association of Teachers of Mathematics (KATM) website.
http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4792

Lesson and Unit Planning

LESSON AND UNIT EXEMPLARS
Title: *Curriculum Exemplars*
State: New York

These are exemplar lessons for ELA in grades 6, 7, 8, 9-10 and 11-12 and for mathematics in grades 1, 2, 7, and high school algebra.
http://www.engageny.org/common-core-curriculum

Title: *Textbook Review*
State: Tennessee

Tennessee produced resources intended to help educators make informed decisions about which Common Core-aligned textbooks to use for English Language Arts.
http://www.tncore.org/english_language_arts.aspx

Title: *Curricular Resources*
State: Louisiana

The Louisiana Department of Education created a Common Core-aligned textbook review process. The results can be found here: http://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/curricular-resources/2012-2013-lde-textbook-review.pdf?sfvrsn=2

LESSON AND UNIT REVIEW RUBRIC
Title: *Tri-State Collaborative Quality Review Rubric*

States: Tri-State Collaborative (Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island)

The Tri-State Collaborative (composed of educational leaders from Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island and facilitated by Achieve) has developed criterion-based rubrics and review processes to evaluate the quality of lessons and units intended to address the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics and ELA/Literacy. Please note that educators that choose to use these rubrics should first go through a training process on the rubric, also available on the website.
http://engageny.org/resource/tri-state-quality-review-rubric-and-rating-process/

Professional Learning

Teachers, principals, and district leaders must have high-quality professional learning experiences that help them understand the shifts in the Common Core from existing state standards and identify the changes they will need to make to their own curriculum and instruction in order for students to meet Common Core expectations. Participation in trainings or watching webinars or videos on the Common Core alone is not sufficient professional development; these discrete experiences must be coupled with opportunities for educators to have regular and frequent meaningful, data-informed discussions with their peers and a coach or mentor to support them in transferring new knowledge and skills to the classroom.

Title: *Kentucky Content Leadership Networks*
State: Kentucky

This website describes the role of Leadership Networks, which are a requirement of Kentucky's broad education reform set out in Senate Bill 1. These networks are "intended to build the capacity of each district…as they implement Kentucky's new Core Academic Standards." Resources include curriculum maps and pacing guides, gap analysis protocols, grade level shifts, planning and pacing processes, and descriptions and timelines related to how the leadership networks will operate. It also provides a 3-year timeline of the networks' work and expectations. In addition, it provides a good explanation of the difference between capacity building and train-the-trainer models.
http://education.ky.gov/school/Pages/Leadership-Networks---Deliverables.aspx

Title: *Vermont's Transition to the Common Core State Standards: English Language Arts*
State: Vermont

This document details the recommendations for professional learning to support the transition to the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Literacy. This professional learning plan was developed by Vermont educators and professional development providers in collaboration with department staff and is intended to provide schools and districts with guidance as they transition to the CCSS.
http://sites.google.com/site/commoncoreinvermont/english-language-arts-ela-1/vt-s-transition-to-the-common-core-state-standards-english-language-arts
Professional Learning for the CCSSM: http://sites.google.com/site/ccssminvt/home

Title: *Hawaii Standards Database Professional Development and Webinar Series*
State: Hawaii

Hawaii makes available a series of webinars the agency has hosted on professional development and Common Core implementation. Additionally, Hawaii's Standards Database includes dozens of resources to assist educators as they begin implementing the Common Core State Standards.
http://wetserver.net/hcpsv3_staging/cc/pd-webinars.jsp

Title: *Wisconsin Professional Learning on Demand*
State: Wisconsin
This portion of the Wisconsin Common Core website includes a collection of professional learning materials created for Wisconsin educators and leaders. The materials are free and include PowerPoint presentations, facilitation guides, and supplementary materials.
http://commoncore.dpi.wi.gov/learningondemand

Title: *Summer 2013 Idaho Core Standards Workshops*
State: Idaho
Throughout the state, Idaho is holding several professional development workshops designed to help educators transition to the standards. The dates, locations, and topics are listed on the state agencies website: http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/common/workshops.htm.

Title: *Professional Learning Opportunities*
State: Washington
Washington is hosting a series of webinars dedicated to different levels of Common Core implementation http://www.k12.wa.us/CoreStandards/updatesevents.aspx. The state education agency is also making more intensive, specific webinars and professional trainings available to educators throughout the state. Each of the state's nine Educational Service Districts has made professional learning opportunities available for teachers and leaders.
http://www.k12.wa.us/CoreStandards/ProfDev.aspx

CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS
Title: *CCSS District Implementation Pilot Project*
State: Washington
Washington awarded grants of $4,500 to 50 districts to help with the implementation of Common Core State Standards. Grant winners are expected to designate a district CCSS implementation team, attend content trainings and district team workshops, provide collaborative time for school faculty, and agree to serve as a resource for other school districts as they build transition plans. Partnering with the GEAR UP! Program is one option states may consider exploring in order to maximize training opportunities for educators in schools with high percentages of low-income students. Small and rural districts may find this assistance particularly beneficial, given that staffing and funding constraints are often heightened.
http://www.k12.wa.us/CoreStandards/DistrictProject.aspx

Title: *Wisconsin's Teaching and Learning Collaboratory*
State: Wisconsin
The Wisconsin Teaching and Learning Collaboratory (WTLC) is a partnership formed by the Office of Early Learning, the CCSS Implementation Team, the statewide Gear-Up program, the Cooperative Educational Service Agency Statewide Network, and Wisconsin ASCD to leverage the strengths of each organization and provide statewide professional learning around curriculum, instruction, and assessment based on the CCSS. The collaboration will support and accelerate schools implementation of the Common Core State Standards and also will connect to other statewide initiatives, such as educator effectiveness, accountability, and assessment.
http://commoncore.dpi.wi.gov/wisconsin-teaching-and-learning-collabratory

TEACHER TRAINING

Title: Florida College System Teacher Education Programs
State: Florida
The Florida College System Teacher Educator Programs are the first in the nation to voluntarily commit to a system-wide implementation of the Common Core State Standards. The new standards will be embedded in the teacher preparation program curriculum throughout the college system so new teachers who enter the classroom will be ready for the more rigorous standards.
http://www.fldoe.org/news/2012/2012_08_02-3.asp

TRAINING SESSION
Title: *Common Core PD Kit*
State: New York
This kit is designed to help New York's Network Teams prepare teachers and administrators for the implementation of the CCSS, including a facilitation guide and a full day presentation (with talking points). This document is a good resource for developing a training session on the Common Core.
http://engageny.org/resource/common-core-professional-development-kit/

SAMPLE USES OF THE TEACHING CHANNEL VIDEOS:
State: Vermont
Vermont provides links to the Teaching Channel as a way to demonstrate the impact of standards on teaching. Videos provided on the Teaching Channel show current classroom teachers, such as the 2010 National Teacher of the Year Sarah Brown Wessling, teaching the standards in their classrooms and reflecting on their practice.
http://www.vpt.org/show/18786/119