

ACHIEVE THE CORE

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Core Advocate Newsletter

New Tools, Core Advocate Stories and Ways to Get Involved

Core Advocates *Elevating Instructional Advocacy*

Over 300 amazing educators came together in the Mile High City last month for our annual Core Advocates conference. This year's conference theme was *Elevating Instructional Advocacy*. Attendees had nearly 40 breakout sessions to choose from, including content for math, ELA/literacy, assessment, and digital tools on **Achieve the Core**. From the opening panel discussion with Sandra Alberti, Jason Zimba and Sue Pimentel, to the inspiring *Ignite!* talks during the closing session, we learned from and with one another. Starting this month, we'll have a monthly column highlighting some of the popular sessions from the conference, so you can benefit from the conference sessions even if you weren't able to attend them.





Here are just a few of the comments our Core Advocates shared about their favorite sessions:

- "All of the sessions were great. It is amazing the depth of discussion you can have with a group of like-minded individuals. It felt like the ultimate opportunity to collaborate."
- "Ted Coe did a remarkable job of creating a story of how a single standard can prepare and build a foundation for high school math. This type of content expertise pushed to me to think deeper about mathematics instruction and the work our students are doing in their classrooms."
- "I loved the Secondary ELA Assessment session. The specificity of why the tasks were and were not aligned was most beneficial. Going through the various samples and understanding the articulation of the questions, and more importantly the writing prompts, will assist in helping teachers understand how to determine the strengths and weaknesses of their own attempts at creating prompts."
- "This was the first time that I experienced the passion that Jason Zimba and Sue Pimentel bring to the Standards. Sandra's moderation of the panel conversation made the experience personal to me as it validated my core beliefs as an educator."
- "The highlight for me was the *Ignite!* Sessions - these motivational speeches were AWESOME!"

Core Advocate Question of the Month

Many of you responded to last month's question, ***What professional learning experiences will you engage in this summer?*** Check out all the great learning that will happen this summer, including that of Core Advocate Casey McCormick, this month's winner of a \$25 Amazon Gift Card. Submit a response to this month's question and you could be our next winner!

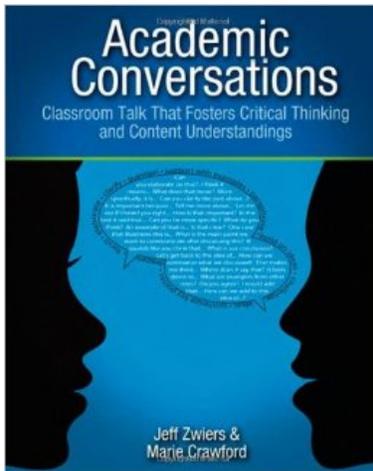
Twitter Math Camp

I will attend Twitter Math Camp for my 3rd summer! Joining with other teachers from the Math-Twitter-Blog-o-Sphere fills me with so many great new ideas and so much enthusiasm to come back and get ready to begin



the school year. By teachers, for teachers, TMC is the best PD I've ever attended!

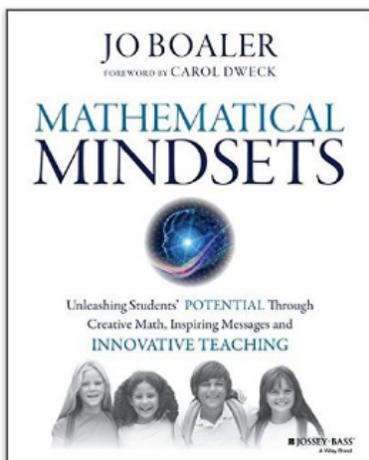
-Casey McCormick



Teacher Book Club

I plan to read at least a chapter of something that makes me a "smarter" teacher each day, including *Grit*, *They Say, I Say*, *Academic Conversations*, and *Reading Nonfiction*. A few colleagues have agreed to join me in this endeavor and an informal book club is in the making.

-Carina Stillman



Growth Mindsets in Math

I am excited to dive into the *Growth Mindset* research of Dweck and Boaler to better reach my struggling students. I hope to make some shifts in my teaching and classroom model for next year!

-Rebecca Wilson

Additional Reader Responses

The Kentucky Center For Mathematics and The Kentucky Department of Education are working together to offer *summer institutes* for elementary and middle school mathematics. The elementary sessions will be targeting big ideas, strategies and models essential for developing mathematical proficiency, and the middle school session will intensively explore the conceptual understanding of algebra and algebraic reasoning. Also, *The Learn, Lead, Launch Summit* supports K-12 social studies teachers in utilizing best practices in their classrooms. -Erin Chavez

I plan to continue to develop my craft by participating in the June Core Advocate webinar.

I also plan to collaborate with my fellow Early College adjunct professors at the university to continue to increase the advanced offerings to students at our school. -Christy Bickett

This month's question:
What was the highlight of your 2015-16 school year?
(Pictures welcome!)

Submit Your Answer

Core Advocate Webinar Series

Have you checked out the monthly Core Advocate webinars? This summer is a great time to join the learning! Each webinar is held on the third Tuesday of the month from 7:00 - 8:00 pm EDT.

The June Core Advocate webinar will explore the concept of **Instructional Advocacy**, describing what it is, why it matters, and how you can get involved in Instructional Advocacy efforts in your setting. July's webinar will guide educators in using the **Instructional Practice Guide: Coaching Tool** to make a **Teacher's New Year's Resolution**. See information on additional upcoming webinars below:

- August: **Understanding and Using Imperfect Materials**
- September: **Building a Deeper Understanding of the Math Standards in PLCs**
- October: **Building a Deeper Understanding of the ELA Standards in PLCs**
- November: **Using Formative Assessment to Measure Student Progress**.

We hope you can join us for any or all of these informative sessions.

Registration fills up fast, so don't wait to register for the next webinar, **Instructional Advocacy to Improve Practice** scheduled for Tuesday, June 19, 2016 from 7:00-8:00 pm EDT. Invite your colleagues to join in the conversation and the work in your state!

Every Student Succeeds Act

Many states are gathering educators to consider the implications of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) on state education issues and systems. Core Advocates will be critical contributors to this work all across the country! Let us know if you're involved in these efforts in your state, and we'll connect you with others doing the same work.

I'm doing ESSA work in my state!

Elevating Instructional Advocacy: Session Highlight

Rachel Etienne, member of the ELA/literacy team at Student Achievement Partners, offered an extended session titled *Do more with less: A 360 degree examination of instruction*. Session attendees learned about the **Shifts for ELA**, including the importance of complex text, asking students to use evidence from texts to support their writing and speaking, and building knowledge through use of content-rich non-fiction. The **Instructional Practice Guide: Coaching Tool** and **Beyond the Lesson Guide** partnered with full-length **Teaching the Core** classroom videos to help attendees see the Shifts come to life in the classroom. Not able to attend? No problem! You can access the materials from this session by clicking [here](#), and feel free to contact **Rachel** with your questions or comments!



"The opportunity to determine the complexity level of a text, watch a teacher in action, then use the IPG to talk about this teacher's practice was incredibly helpful. I have a better understanding of how to use these tools with teachers."
-Session attendee

In the News

UnboundEd Launch

UnboundEd offers free, high-quality, standards-aligned, lessons and units from EngageNY. The site offers a friendly, state-agnostic user interface to simplify navigation through the complete EngageNY curriculum and to allow direct access to specific lessons. In addition, the EngageNY modules, units, and lessons have been given more descriptive names on UnboundEd to make it easier to search for resources by topic, grade, and subject. The **Enhance Instruction** section of the site offers new ELA and Math Standards Guides, which focus on specific standards and key concepts, how to teach them, and ways to offer additional support to students who need it. These resources include examples, videos, and podcasts that illustrate the richness of the content standards.

Additionally, registration is open for UnboundEd's Standards Institute, which offers a week-long session for teachers, coaches, principals, administrators, and superintendents. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Spotlight on Kentucky

Kentucky Core Advocates and their local colleagues are making new on several fronts. Check out [this article](#) detailing Kentucky's adoption of Common Core State Standards, where implementation efforts included communicating with parents through local PTA-organized community meetings, training videos, and helpful pamphlets that explained what the Common Core is and how it impacts their children. Then read about the state-wide efforts of the KY Core Advocates math campaign, focused on Coherence in mathematics in [this article](#) as well as [this one](#). Finally, Kentucky Core Advocate Michelle Ruckdeschel shares her perspective in [this](#) America Achieves Educator Voice piece. Great work, Kentucky!

Core Advocates Own the Work

Karla Spears, a Core Advocate at Mayfair Lab School in East Baton Rouge, LA Parish Schools shared: "I am presenting this summer at a technology PD for my district. My presentation is entitled 'Transforming Teaching Targets Through Technology,' and I am attending The Mickelson ExxonMobil Teacher Academy in Pittsburgh! I also started 'STEAMING UP' my curriculum using garden towers this school year!"



Share what you're doing!

Materials Alignment Project

GO Math! Users ...

SAP's Math team has recently begun a project working with districts across the country who are using *Go Math!* Participants are working collaboratively to create grade-level guidance documents to help teachers use *Go Math!* in K-5 in a more aligned way. If you are using *Go Math!* or will be using it next year, please click [here](#) to receive updates on the project and hear how you can become more involved. If you have questions about the work, please reach out to [Marni Greenstein](#).

... and Journeys Users

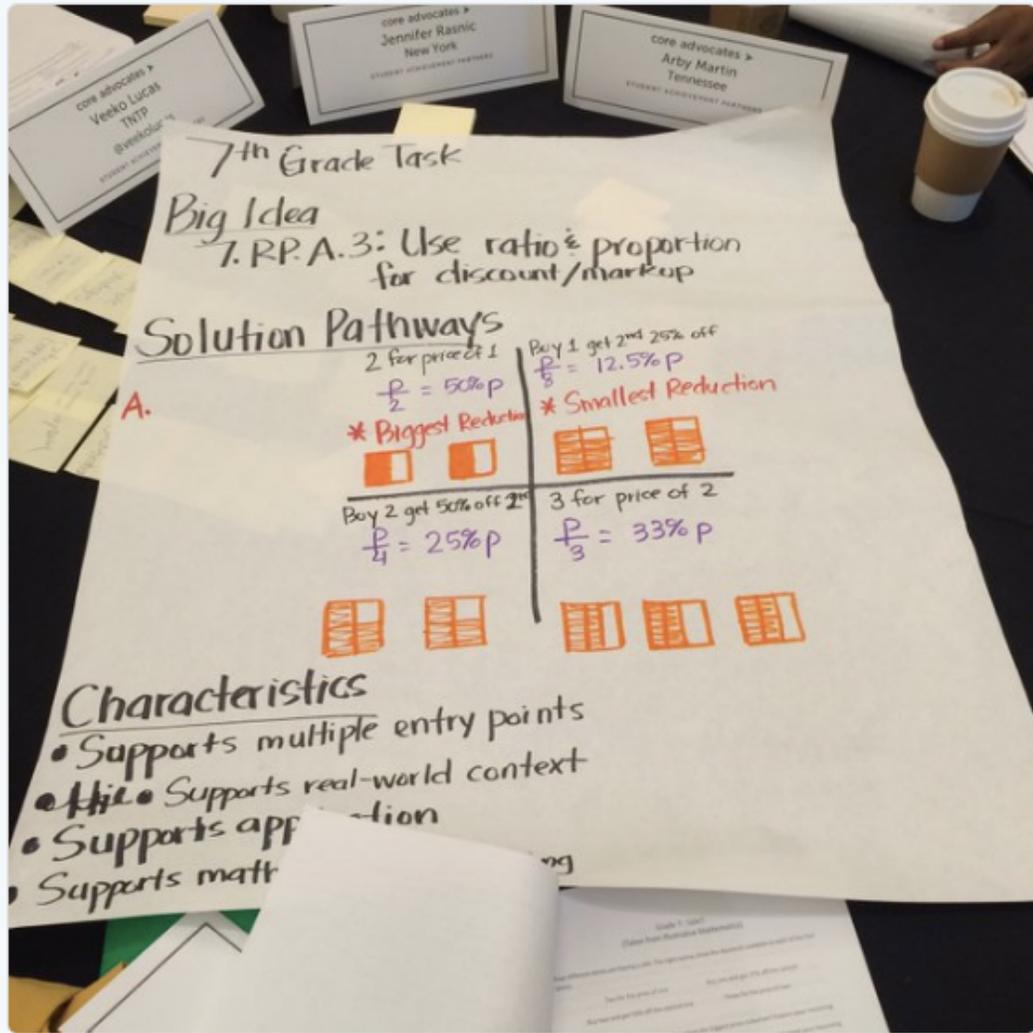
SAP's ELA team has recently begun a project working with districts across the country who are using HMH *Journeys* (2014 or newer). Participants are working collaboratively to create sample grade-level revised lesson plans to help teachers use *Journeys* K-5 in a more aligned way. If you are using *Journeys* or will be using it next year, please click [here](#) to receive updates on the project and hear how you can become more involved. If you have questions about the work, please reach out to [Cathy Schmidt](#).

Social Media Spotlight



Nette Archangel @NetteArchangel · May 15

D7: always multiple entry ways in math!!
#sixwordstory #coreadvocates



Stephanie Hajdin @shajdin1 · May 14

B4-There's no evidence that struggling readers catch up by using simpler text.
#coreadvocates





Sabrina Chan @Sabrichan · May 15

What does it look like to think across grades? #coreadvocates get your hands on the #coherence map! @achievethecore

Elizabeth Meier and Angie Miller



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Dawn Perez @PerezDawnH · May 14

Session B6 - Worthy assessments require worthy text

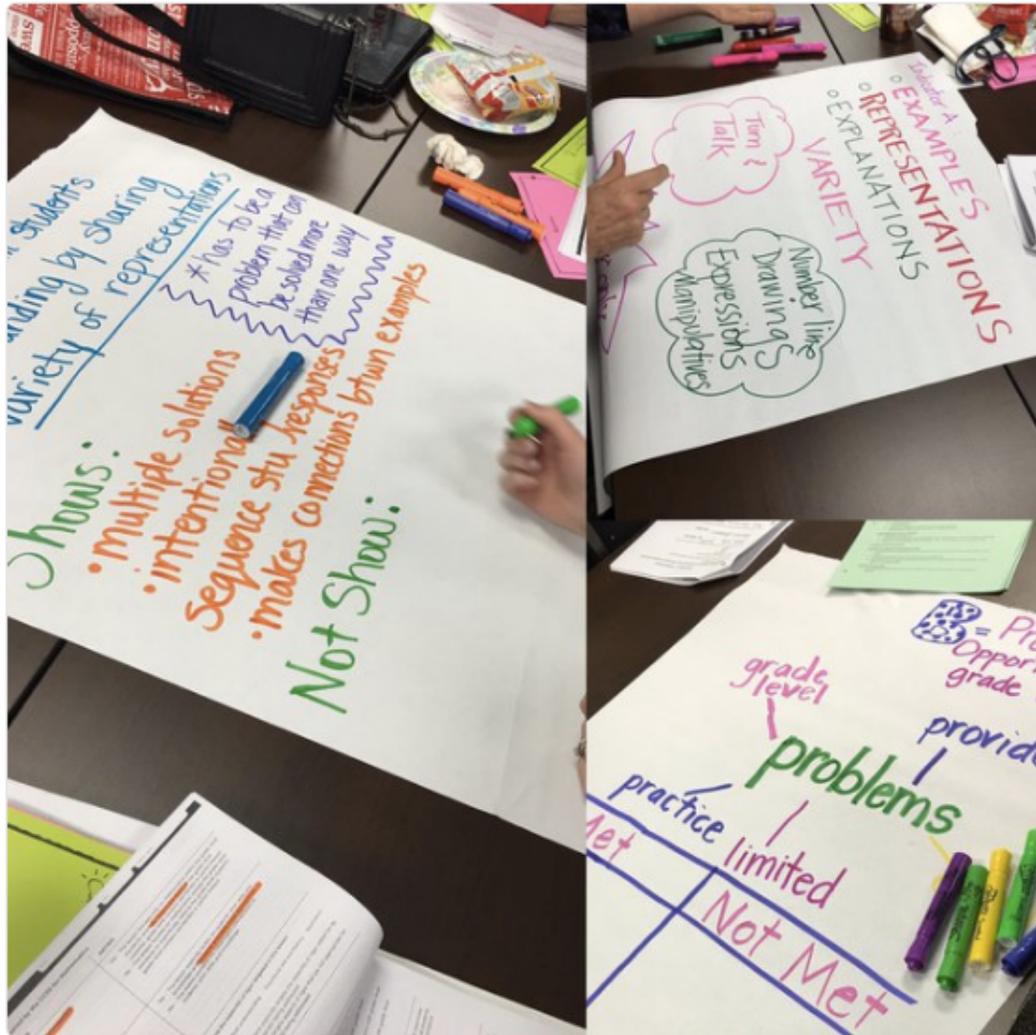
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WA Core Advocates @WACoreAdvocates · May 18

Working with Lake Washington teachers, using the #IPG to think about core-aligned lessons. #coreadvocates



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