

core advocates Newsletter

Corrected Link

Oops! It seems there was a broken link in the previous version of the October Core Advocates Newsletter. Please note the corrected link below (in the first story under Resources) to read the [Aligned blog post](#) about supporting all students with complex text. We apologize for the inconvenience!

October is here

Happy October to all of our Core Advocates! Did you know that more U.S. presidents have been born in October than in any other month? As you are settling into October, we hope you'll find enjoyable and helpful resources in this month's Core Advocate Newsletter.

Jump to October 2016 Highlights

[Assessment Items added to the Coherence Map](#)

[New York Standards Revision](#)

[#ObserveMe Challenge](#)

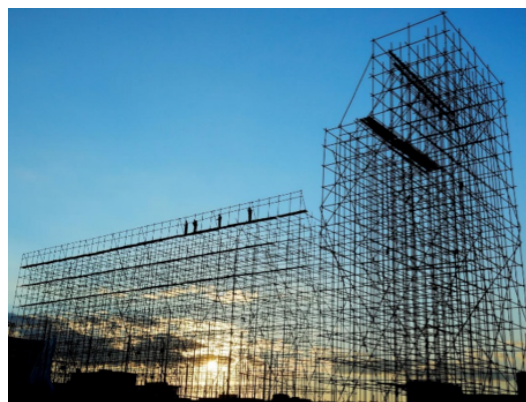
Resources

Classroom Connections

Scaffolding instruction of Standards-aligned complex text

One of the most frequently asked questions asked of the SAP ELA team is, "What can I do to support all of my students with more complex text?" Check

out [this Aligned blog post](#) for some guidance and illustrations of helpful teacher moves. The few mentioned are just part of a more comprehensive list, linked in the post, and grouped into before, during and after reading supports. Enjoy!



Research Packs

Check out the newest ELA lessons on [Achieve the Core](#) -- the [Research Packs](#). For K-5, the packs are designed to support students and teachers in research skills and writing to inform or explain. Each pack includes teacher directions, centered on high-quality informational text, along with student-facing organizers. Each topic pack is designed to illustrate the guided release of responsibility students need to independently research and write to meet Writing Standards 2, 7, and 8.

Assessment items added to the Coherence Map

We're piloting the inclusion of PARCC and SBAC released items in the Coherence Map, and we'd like your feedback! Some standards now include assessment items that reflect that standard. Take a moment to check out the standards in your grade and let us know if you find the assessment items helpful and if you'd like to see more of them. Email info@studentsachieve.net with your feedback.

Standards Illustrated with Consortia Assessment Items
3.MD.A.1, 3.MD.B.3, 3.MD.C.7, 3.NBT.A.3, 3.NF.A.2, 3.OA.A.1, 3.OA.A.4, 3.OA.C.7, 3.OA.D.8
4.MD.B.4, 4.NBT.B.4, 4.NBT.B.5, 4.NBT.B.6, 4.NF.C.6, 4.OA.A.2, 4.OA.A.3
5.G.B.3, 5.MD.A.1, 5.MD.B.2, 5.NBT.A.3, 5.NBT.B.6, 5.NBT.B.7, 5.NF.B.3, 5.NF.B.4, 5.NF.B.5, 5.NF.B.6, 5.NF.B.7
6.EE.B.5, 6.EE.B.7, 6.G.A.2, 6.NS.B.2, 6.NS.C.6, 6.RP.A.3
7.NS.A.1, 7.RP.A.3
8.EE.A.2, 8.EE.A.4, 8.EE.C.7, 8.EE.C.8, 8.F.A.3, 8.F.B.4, 8.NS.A.1

Your Own Learning

Webinars

November Webinar

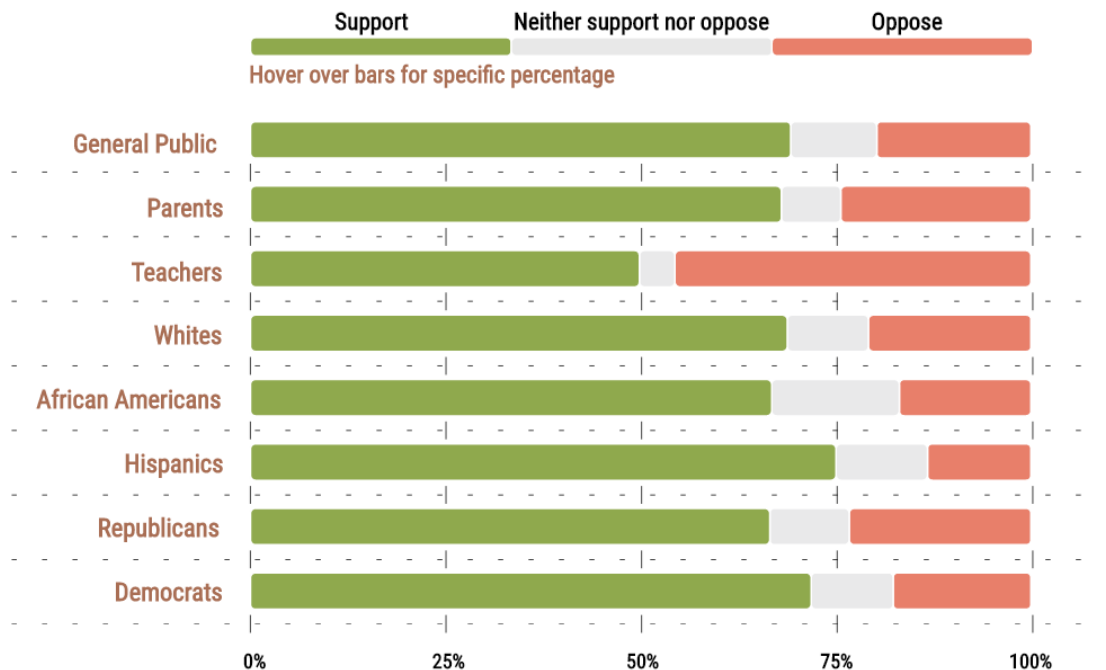
On Wednesday, November 2, Student Achievement Partners will proudly present the Core Advocate Webinar Series: Connecting the Criteria for High-Quality Assessments to Standards- and Shifts- Aligned Instruction from 7:00 – 8:00 pm EDT. Register [here](#) and be sure to share the link with your colleagues. We encourage you to collaborate with

colleagues by attending with a team from your school or district. We look forward to learning with you!

[Register](#)

In the News

Do you support or oppose the federal government continuing to require that all students be tested in math and reading each year in grades 3-8 and once in high school?



Student Growth in Smarter Balanced States

Recently released assessment results show that most students in states utilizing the Smarter Balanced assessment showed solid growth from 2015 to 2016. At the same time, a public opinion poll conducted by Education Next indicates that parents support high-quality assessment that accurately measure their children's learning.

New York Standards Revision Open for Public Comment

New York Educators: New York State has recently revised its education standards and they are currently open for public comment through November 4, 2016. One particular set of changes to the ELA/Literacy Standards threatens to undermine the high expectations embodied by the Standards. Text complexity – which underlies all the Standards – has a severely diminished role in the revised Standards. Under Common Core, text complexity had its own section and its own standards. Under the revision, the text complexity standards (Standard 10 in each grade) have been removed and references to text complexity have been limited, watered down, or eliminated

completely. We urge you to take a few short minutes to [weigh in](#) during the public comment period and explain why you oppose these changes and the lowering of expectations for New York students. Visit [Achieve the Core](#) for our complete guidance as well as suggested talking points.

Bulletin Board

Get Involved

Improve your instructional practice by accepting the [#ObserveMe](#) challenge! Teachers around the country have been using this challenge to encourage their colleagues to visit their classrooms, observe their instruction, and provide feedback focusing on their personal learning and teaching goals. Join in by creating an inviting sign for your classroom door that includes some of your goals for improving instructional practice. Use the [Coaching Tool](#) to focus your observations on the Shifts, and try some of the [Beyond the Lesson](#) discussion questions to facilitate conversation with actionable feedback. Make sure you share your sign on Facebook and Twitter with the [#ObserveMe](#) hashtag to encourage other educators to start observing and getting feedback! Read the blog post that started it all [here](#).

Are you interested in participating in the [#ObserveMe](#) challenge?

[I'm willing to tweet/share a Facebook post about it](#)

[I'm willing to hang a sign on my classroom door](#)

[I'm willing to observe colleagues who post signs](#)

[I'm willing to organize a group of colleagues \(PLC, grade band teachers, content teams, etc.\) to participate](#)

[I'm not interested in the \[#ObserveMe\]\(#\) challenge](#)

Elementary Math Specialist Support

The [ems & tl Project](#) addresses issues related to and in support of elementary mathematics specialists (EMS). The project also provides opportunities for the continuing professional development and mentoring of regionally-based mathematics teacher-leaders and elementary school mathematics specialists.

Upcoming Events

October 22–23

New York Core Advocate Catalysts Meeting
Albany, NY

November 5–6

Leading the Core Principals' Convening
Chicago, IL

January 7–8

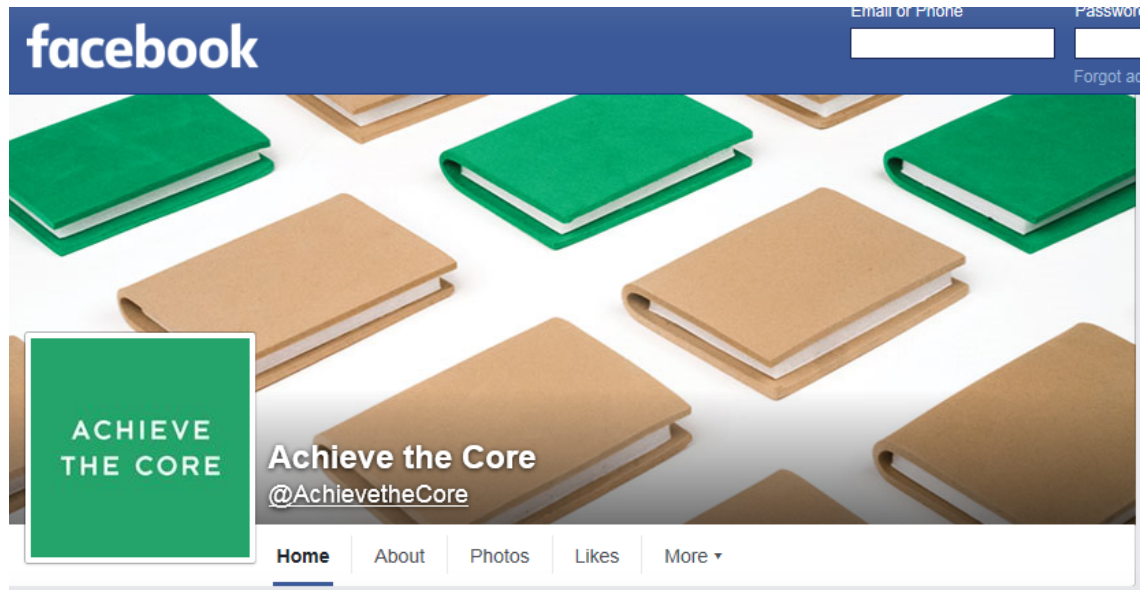
Connecticut Core Advocate Catalysts



Meeting
Location TBD

We're on Facebook

Achieve the Core is now on Facebook! Like [our page](#) and invite your friends and colleagues to do the same. Use our page to share your Instructional Advocacy stories and photos, and check in regularly for Standards-aligned classroom resources, videos, research, and teacher and staff biographies.



Showcasing Our Network

Question of the Month

October's Question

How do your students inspire you?

[Submit for a chance to win a \\$25 Amazon gift card](#)

Last Month's Question -- OOPS!

In September we asked, "What is your goal for the new school year?" Unfortunately, the link to submit your response was broken. Please share your goals with us again, for a second chance at a \$25 Amazon gift card!

[Submit for a chance to win a \\$25 Amazon gift card](#)

Showcasing Instructional Advocacy

New Jersey State Campaigns Launched

On September 17–18, over 100 New Jersey educators attended the NJ Standards Advocates Catalysts Meeting in Princeton, NJ. This engaged group explored the Shifts in math and ELA breakout rooms, and learned about the state campaigns, focused on complex text in ELA and coherence in math. The NJ leadership team did a great job designing and delivering this important learning and look forward to the great work of the newest NJ Standards Advocates!



Speaking Up

New Jersey Core Advocate Dina O'Brien blogged about her experience during the NJ Catalysts Meeting on September 17–18. Read Dina's account of the weekend [here](#).

Sharing the Learning

Florida Core Advocate Sandra Davis recently conducted two ½ day Professional Development Sessions for Brevard Public Schools in Brevard County Florida during their district-wide Professional Development Day on September 19th. And fellow Florida Standards Advocate Rita Hayes (pictured right) conducted the first Brevard Public Schools Math Coaches Institute of the school year. The focus was the [Instructional Practice Guide Coaching](#) tool. "It went extremely well with insightful discussions and 'aha' moments." Thanks for sharing the learning, ladies!



Share what you're doing

Social Media Spotlight



Char Shryock
@edtechgirl

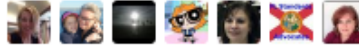


Following

Looking forward to exploring UnboundEd
[#math](#) content guides...a work in progress, but
fun to explore
[unbounded.org/enhance_instru...](#)
[#Coreadvocates](#)

RETWEETS
5

LIKES
4



4:52 PM - 7 Sep 2016



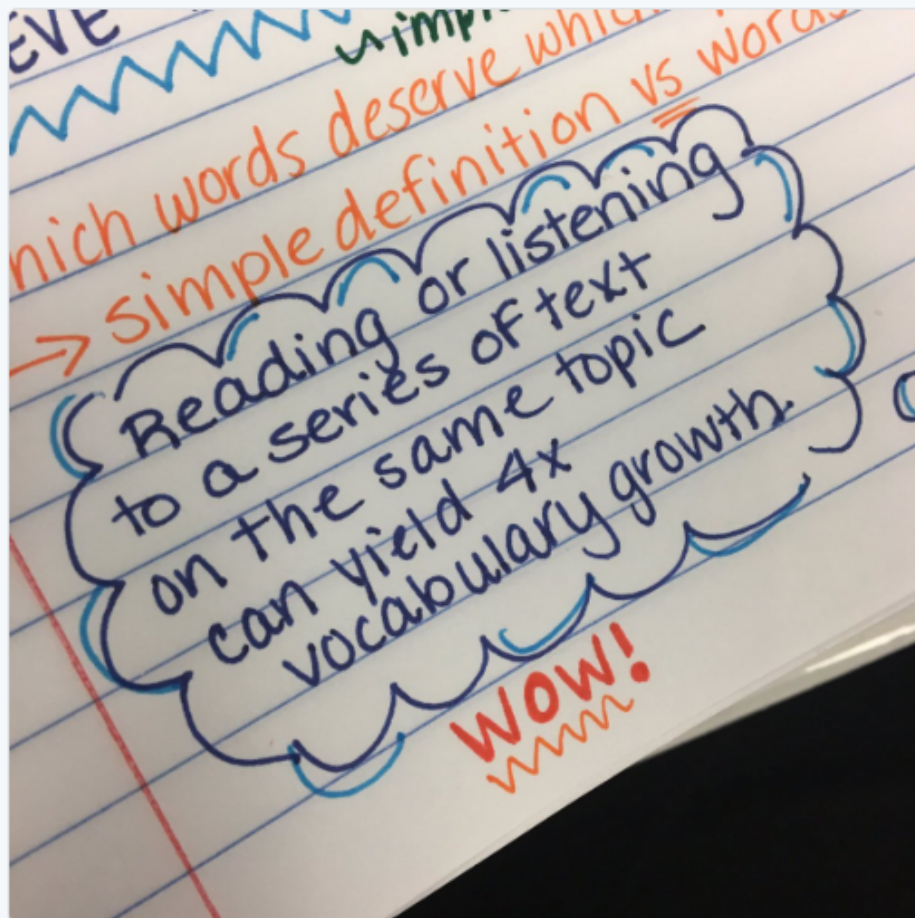
↻ 5

♥ 4



Heather Schwerin @H_Schwerin · Sep 18

"Be purposeful in what is chosen for students to read" ♥ it! @NatalieFranzi
[#coreadvocates](#) [#MTPSpride](#)



↻ 24

♥ 41





Kim Turner @MissKRTurner · Sep 20

Incredible resource and it's free! @NJStandards @FAmato53 @SuzanneMera @JuzdanGail #coreadvocates



CommonLit: An Online Library of Free Texts

If you're looking for high-quality informational and literary texts to use in the classroom, you're going to love the free online library at CommonLit.

cultofpedagogy.com



3



6





Achieve the Core

September 11 at 10:10am · 🌐



Parents can and should help with math homework! Jason Zimba shares his tips for parents looking to assist their children with assignments, skill building, and fluency practice at home.

<https://edexcellence.net/.../can-parents-help-with-math-homew...>



Can parents help with math homework? YES | The Thomas B. Fordham Institute

My wife and I both spend time working with our kids on their homework. We have also made a family tradition of "Saturday School," a routine that my wife and I...

EDEXCELLENCE.NET

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



9



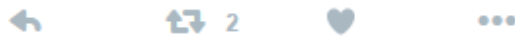
Shannon Brace @Shannon_Brace · Sep 21

This sums up my weekend of learning with @NJStandards #coreadvocates and how I feel returning to my class and rethinking every move I make.

**MOVE OUT OF YOUR
COMFORT ZONE.**

**you can only grow if you are
willing to feel awkward
and uncomfortable
when you try something NEW.**

~ Brian Tracey



ACHIEVE THE CORE

Assembled by Student Achievement Partners
58 East 11th Street
New York, New York 10003
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

You're receiving this email because you signed up for resource update notifications on our website achievethecore.org. Receiving this message from a colleague? [Subscribe here](#) to receive emails like this one.

[Edit your subscription](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Difficulty viewing this email?](#)