



## Marching into March

Welcome to March. The days are getting longer and warmer, our students are well into this year's learning, and spring break is on the horizon! This month's newsletter is packed with information and opportunities for you to get involved with important instructional advocacy work through Student Achievement Partner and many of our partner organizations. We hope you find an opportunity that gets you excited and engaged this spring! Don't forget to [tell us](#) all about the great work you are doing – we'd love to feature you in an upcoming newsletter!

## Jump to Highlights

[Upcoming Webinars](#)

[Opportunities for Core Advocates](#)

[Washington Core Advocates YouTube Channel](#)

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## Resources

### Classroom Connections

#### Book Baskets

Do you have texts you love? Ones you use year after year? Share those great titles with other colleagues via our new Book Basket collection. Book Baskets are topic-based text collections that help

students build knowledge and vocabulary through reading about a single topic. We're looking for lists on any topic, for any grade. Take a moment to [submit your list today!](#)



New Middle School Math Curriculum

Text to come from OUR [here](#).

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## 2 – Your Own Learning

### Webinars

#### Principals' Webinar

Principals and other school and district leaders share unique challenges and opportunities in guiding standards- and shifts- aligned instruction. Join us from 7:00 – 8:00 PM EST on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 for leader-specific content, collaboration, and learning that will support you and your work with teachers. Not a principal? Share the [registration link](#) with the administrators in your school or district!

[Register here for the Principals' Webinar on March 8](#)

#### Core Advocates' Webinar

Our next Core Advocates' webinar, *Building Fluent Readers*, is on April 5, 2017 from 7:00 – 8:00 EDT. SAP's own David Liben will share information and strategies that will take your fluency instruction to the next level. Prepare for the webinar by reading [these posts](#) on the *Aligned!* blog and [register for the webinar](#) to learn even more.

[Register here for the Core Advocates' Webinar on April 5](#)

#### Share My Lesson conference

The Annual Share My Lesson Virtual conference is upon us! This year the Assessment team at SAP is presenting two assessment-focused sessions. Shelbi Cole will present an overview of the [Mathematics Item Alignment Modules](#) on March 15th at 5:00 PM EST, and Katie Keown and Laura Hansen will present an overview of the [Literacy Item](#)

[Alignment Modules](#) on March 16th at 5:00 PM EST. If you have seen the Item Alignment Modules on [Achieve the Core](#), and wondered what they were for or how to use them in your classroom, PLC, or school, these sessions are for you! You can read more about the math session [here](#) and the ELA session [here](#).



## Opportunities for Core Advocates

### UnboundEd is Hiring

[UnboundEd](#), an organization composed of former classroom teachers, curriculum writers, and school leaders, is expanding its team as they continue their work to support learning and growth for all educators. Learn more about the open positions [here](#).

### Open Up Resources Looking for Reviewers

[Open Up Resources](#) (OUR), a nonprofit dedicated to developing high-quality, freely available, core math and ELA programs, is seeking educator reviewers for their K-5 ELA & literacy curriculum. To find out more and to apply to be a reviewer, click [here](#).

### EdReports Forming New Cohort of Content Reviewers

Are you infatuated with instructional materials? [EdReports](#) is looking for expert educators like you to be a part of its next cohort of content reviewers. As a content reviewer with EdReports, you not only have an opportunity for your own professional growth and leadership development, but will also contribute your expertise to help equip other educators nationwide with the tools they need to improve student outcomes with the highest quality instructional materials. EdReports content reviewers benefit from:

- A supportive network of like-minded educators.
- Online and in-person trainings with EdReports staff and other Content Reviewers.

- Opportunities to grow as a leader in the reviewing of instructional materials.
- A \$1,250 stipend per series reviewed.

Check out what other [educators are saying](#) about their experience as content reviewers and learn more about [EdReports' review process](#). [Apply now](#) to contribute your expertise to making EdReports' vision of improved student outcomes through the highest-quality instructional materials a reality.

## LearnZillion

[LearnZillion](#) is looking for teachers to provide input as they continue to build and test new features and offerings. The best part? You'll be compensated for your time. Interested in sharing your opinion? Take [this survey](#) to share about yourself.

## Bulletin Board

### *Everyday Math, Investigations, and Bridges Users*

SAP is launching two small teacher inquiry pilot projects for current users of the progressive math programs *Everyday Math*, *Investigations*, and *Bridges*. These projects involve small adaptations to improve these programs' alignment to the Standards and Shifts. One project will be around adapting routines or centers for K–2 classrooms, and the other around 3rd grade fluency practice for classrooms. If you are a K–3 teacher or coach using one of these curricula and are interested in participating in one of these projects, please [email Jennie Beltramini](#).

### Topic-Based Libraries

Building knowledge through topic-based independent reading is critical in literacy instruction, however, many classroom libraries aren't designed with the goal of building knowledge. Take [this 2-minute survey](#) to share your thoughts on topic-based libraries.

### Math Mini-Courses

SAP's second math mini-course is in full swing. We have over 50 Core Advocates participating in a 6-week deep dive into the [Instructional Practice Guide](#), along with lesson plan and student work analysis. As we think about a future mini-course around math assessment, what information would be most helpful to you in your setting? [Email Barbara Beske](#) with your ideas.

### National Core Advocates Meeting in May

We are excited to be hosting over 300 Core Advocates at our third annual Denver meeting, *Impact Through Instructional Advocacy*. If you have received an acceptance email, be sure to register and submit your registration fee no later than March 31, 2017. We will be unable to hold your spot past this day, so please don't delay!

### Upcoming Events

March 18–19

Louisiana Core Advocates

Lafayette, LA

April 1–2  
Florida Core Advocates  
Orlando, FL

May 6–7  
National Core Advocates Convening  
*Impact Through Instructional Advocacy*  
Denver, CO



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## 3 – Showcasing Our Network

### Question of the Month

#### This Month

What topics would you like to see highlighted on an upcoming Core Advocate webinar?

Submit for a chance to win a \$25 Amazon gift card

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#### Last Month

Question: How have you successfully implemented the Standards for Mathematical Practice?

Winning Answer: "In our math department PLC we want our students to be able to justify their thinking in a complete and thorough way, and to have an understanding of what a good justification looks like. We are seeing growth, not only in our students, but also in the clarity with which our teachers are talking about Math Practice 3 – *Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others* – and the changes in instruction that impact student learning."

–Michelle Hackstadt

#### Other Noteworthy Answers:

"I have been most successful with Mathematical Practice 3 – *Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others*. Students are discussing and adding to one another's developing solutions instead of sitting alone and having their answers marked right or wrong. 'My Favorite No' has become a regular in my classroom as well. We now celebrate mistakes!"

–Rebecca Wilson

"I have successfully implemented the Standards for Mathematical Practice by posting them in more than one area of my room and referring to them throughout each lesson. I



have students work in pairs to make posters that show what the SMPs mean to them. I also teach science, so I often incorporate the SMPs into my science curriculum as well."

*-Michelle Butturini*

## Showcasing Instructional Advocacy



### Colorado Core Advocates

Nearly 80 new Core Advocates joined the Colorado network on February 11–12 in Denver when Colorado launched its math and ELA campaigns. Math educators worked on designing classroom instruction to support students' conceptual understanding in math, while literacy educators wrote text-dependent questions, aligned to the complexity of the grade-level standards, to support students' access to complex text. Congratulations on a great meeting, and welcome new Core Advocates!

### Washington Core Advocates Create Videos

The Core Advocate leadership team in Washington has created a [YouTube channel](#) with brief, informative clips that highlight resources on Achieve the Core. Share these videos with your colleagues, and subscribe to their [channel](#) so you don't miss future releases. Great work, Washington!

### Core Advocate Blog Posts

Have you seen the most recent blog posts from Core Advocates on the Aligned blog? Check out their insights, advice, and resource recommendations:

- Bob Janes – [Lessons Learned after Teaching Without a Textbook](#)
- Kathryn Lemerich -- [Math in Focus: The Search for an Aligned Math Program](#)
- Bethany Lockhart, Jody Guarino -- [Navigating the Spiral in Mathematics Textbooks](#)
- Rob Woodworth-- [What Do They Actually Know?](#)
- MJ D'Amelio -- [How to Create Book Baskets](#)

- Adrienne Williams – Top 5 Questions about ELA Scaffolding in Elementary School

Share what you're doing

## Social Media Spotlight

 **Jill Buecking, EdD** @lifeofjill · Feb 12

a lot of deep thinking has happened when there is ZERO wall space left.

[@achievethecore](#) [#coreadvocates](#) [#ecsrocks](#)

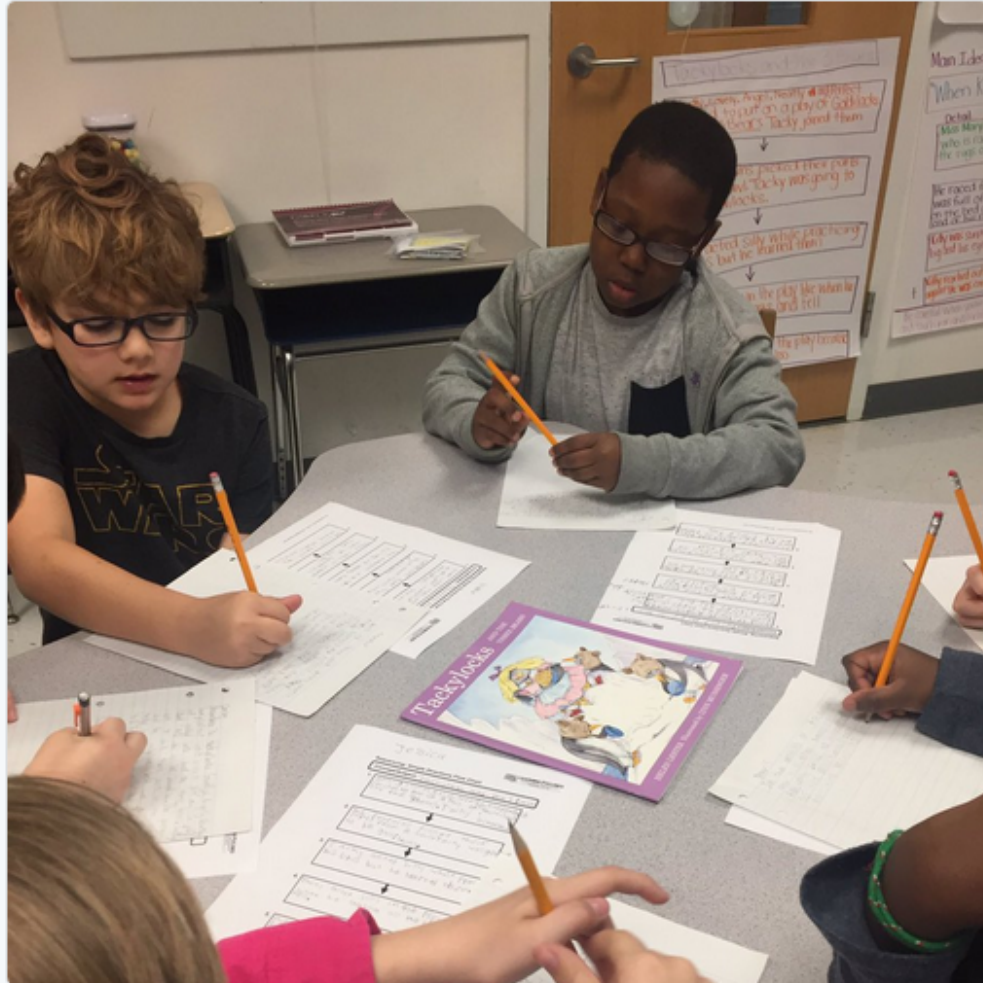


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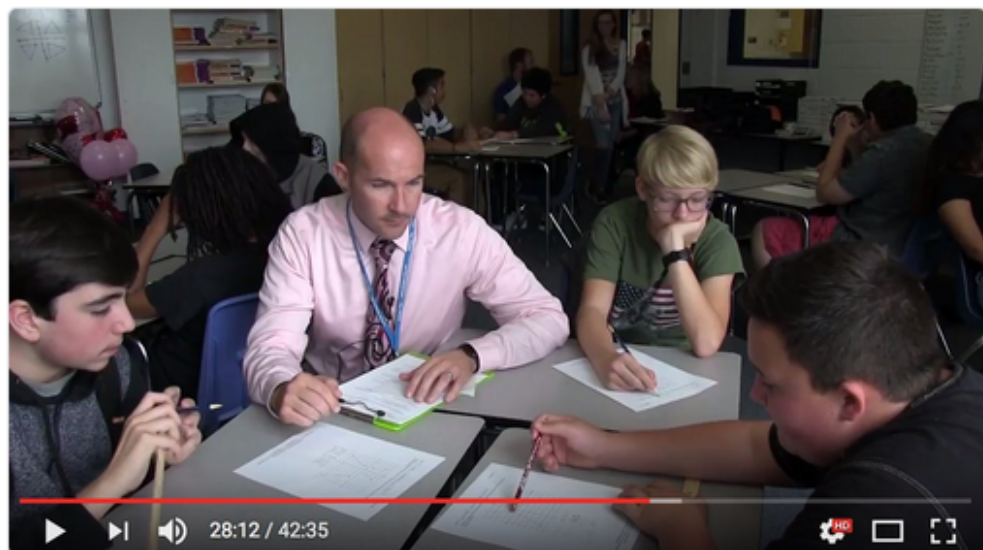
**Maureen Hill** @MaureenHill31 · Feb 28

So proud of these 3rd grade expert response to text writers! So much evidence in their writing!! #nhcschat @achievethecore



**Brian Dean** @PascoMathNinja · Feb 18

I ❤️ using the @achievethecore IPG in order to provide coaching feedback to myself! #PascoMath #GettingBetterEveryDay @pascoschools



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Catherine Schmidt @Cathsch256 · Feb 9

And Governor Sandoval stopped by!  
@NVCoreAdvocates @BrianSandoval  
#coreadvocates

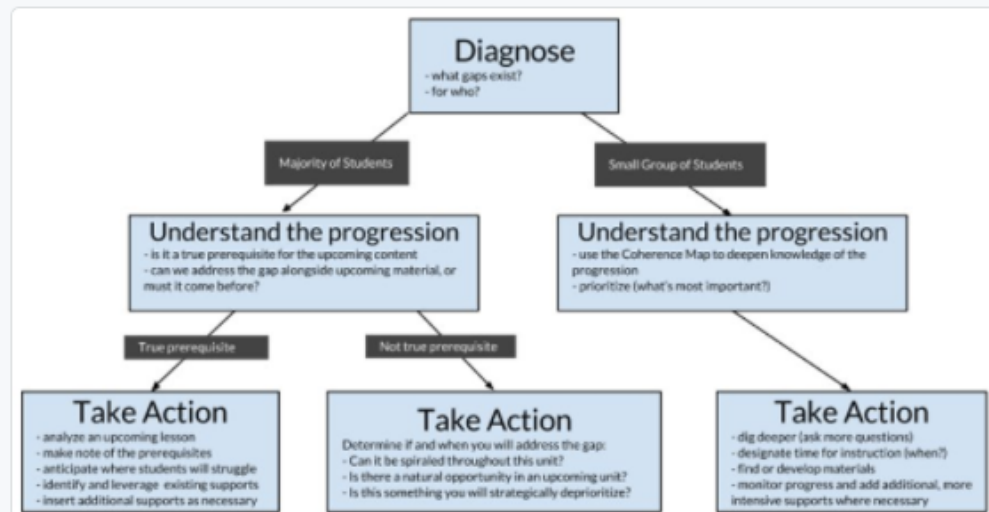


Reply 3 Like 9



Karen McPherson @nc\_teach · 2h

New learning and ways to think about actions for math interventions  
#coreadvocates



Reply 5 Like 7



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## ACHIEVE THE CORE

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New York, New York 10003  
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