



Welcome Back to School!

Happy September, Core Advocates! We hope you are off to a great 2017–18 school year! We at Student Achievement Partners have many plans to support Core Advocates throughout the school year with college- and career-ready standards-aligned instructional practice, materials, and assessment, tools and resources! We look forward to supporting Core Advocates with instructional advocacy work while you lead, support and collaborate with other educators. We hope you'll find some inspiration in this newsletter for your work with students and colleagues!

Jump to September 2017 Highlights

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[School and District Leaders: Plan to Attend Leading the Core in October](#)

[Showcasing Instructional Advocacy](#)

Resources

Classroom Connections

Impact Through Instructional Advocacy: Using Achieve the Core Resources to Tackle Common ELA and Math Challenges

Student Achievement Partners Digital staff presented sessions at May's Core Advocate convening about using Achieve the Core resources to solve common ELA and math challenges. The “Tour de Core” introduced participants to resources that addressed topics for ELA and math instruction and teacher collaboration. If you'd like to learn more about these sessions, and maybe even present a similar session to your colleagues in your school or district, you can access all the ELA session materials [here](#) and the math

session materials [here](#). Also, be on the lookout for the winter 2017/2018 Core Advocate webinars [Using Achieve the Core Tools to Tackle Common Math Issues](#) and [Using Achieve the Core Tools to Tackle Common ELA Issues](#).



Free Resources for Building Students' Knowledge!

Are you looking for resources to build students' knowledge aligned to ELA Shift three? Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) has brand new [social studies units](#) available for free download for grades 3–5. [Science units](#) are also in development, with some materials accessible now! Visit the Core Knowledge website and check out the content area curriculum units!

Are you already using the CKLA Science or Social Studies units, or you are interested in reviewing the materials and telling us about them? Consider writing an *Aligned blog* post about them. Email Claire at crivero@studentsachieve.net.

Open Up Resources Releases Its First Free, Standards–Aligned Curriculum

Education nonprofit [Open Up Resources](#) has released its first openly licensed core program, the [Illustrative Mathematics 6–8 Math curriculum](#). Developed by Illustrative Mathematics—founded by standards author Bill McCallum—and [refined by 175 teachers](#) during the 2016–17 school year, the curriculum is now freely available to districts as an open educational resource (OER).

Assessment Resources Available on Achieve the Core!

Are you in the midst of planning your assessment strategy for the year and looking for guidance around how to craft your reading or mathematics items? Check out the [Math](#) and [ELA/Literacy](#) Item Alignment Modules, a suite of Power Point presentations intended to guide users in the principles of high–quality assessments.

How do I assess my students mastery of grammar and conventions? This question is asked of the assessment team quite often. While we recommend assessing these skills through actual student writing, we recognize that there is not always time for that. To help, we created a new resource, [Assessing Language Standards \(Grammar and Conventions\) for College and Career Readiness](#). The sample passages at the end can be

used as both model assessments as well as ready-made quick checks of your students' grammar and conventions skills

Your Own Learning

SAP Mini-Courses

Student Achievement Partners is excited to announce the continuation of our online mini-courses! The mini-courses give Core Advocates an opportunity to work deeply with some of SAP's tools while learning alongside fellow Core Advocates and SAP staff. We look forward to using the mini-courses to support Core Advocates' instructional advocacy, providing you with tools, resources, and processes to share with colleagues on your schools, districts, and states! Read ahead for more information on the upcoming courses and to be involved in any of them be sure to contact [Jennie Beltramini](#).



Fall Mini-Course: The Instructional Practice Toolkit (IPT) for Math

Come learn about SAP's newest professional learning module! The IPT takes a deep dive into a lesson using the IPG and Beyond the Lesson Guide, analyzing the video of a lesson and the accompanying lesson plan and student work. This course is for teachers, coaches, and educational leaders who have a foundational knowledge of the IPG and are interested in learning more about CCSS-aligned instructional practices and how to bring the learnings from this course as well as the resources shared to fellow educators. Although there will be a soft start the week of September 25, the 7-week course will run from Monday, October 2 to Monday, November 20, including three virtual meet-ups on Thursdays (Oct 12, Oct 26, and Nov 9 from 7:30–9:00 p.m. ET). Apply for this course [here](#).

Fall and Winter Mini-Course: Foundational Reading Skills in K–2 Classrooms

Learn more about what research shows are best practices for teaching our youngest children how to read. In November, this course will dive into the content of foundational skills, with an emphasis on phonological awareness, phonics, and how this connects to early reading. In January, we will shift gears to instructional guidelines and concrete recommendations for teacher practice. This course is designed for educational leaders who support K–2 teachers, districts, or schools and are interesting in narrowing their focus to the unique needs of early childhood reading skills. The 6-week course will run in two parts, with 3 consecutive weeks in November focused on content and three consecutive weeks in January focused on implications for practice. Exact dates and times are TBD. Email [Jennie Beltramini](#) if you are interested in participating!

Webinars

Monthly Core Advocate Webinar Series

Did you know that SAP offers a FREE monthly webinar for Core Advocates? Join us the first Wednesday of each month from 7:00–8:00 p.m. ET to collaborate, learn, and be inspired by the Instructional Advocacy efforts across the country. Our October 4th webinar features Core Advocates and SAP's Literacy team sharing information about "Who's Doing the Work? Shifting the Lift in ELA." Register now with your friends and colleagues and join others working to increase student engagement in literacy classes.

[Register for the October Core Advocate Webinar!](#)

Leading the Core Principal and Leader Webinar

Principals and other school leaders face unique challenges as instructional leaders supporting college- and career-ready standards-aligned instruction and materials use in their buildings, and SAP offers a monthly "Leading the Core" webinar designed just for principals and other school administrators. On September 20, 2017 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET, we will consider the importance of ensuring high quality content for student learning. Join us to learn about identifying instructional materials and resources that support student learning, and considerations for using them most effectively.

[Register for the September Leading the Core Webinar!](#)

In the News

Framework for Developing, Implementing, and Sustaining a High-Quality District Curriculum

The Council of Great City Schools has released a new resource, [Supporting Excellence: A Framework for Developing, Implementing, and Sustaining a High-Quality District Curriculum](#), to help schools and districts take stock of their curriculum and how well they're implementing it. Review the framework for great ideas on making the most of your curriculum and determining whether your curriculum meets seven key indicators of a strong program. This [Aligned blog post](#) provides a quick



overview of the framework and its value to school leaders.

Tidbits

Are you a new teacher or are you mentoring a new teacher? Check out our [Advice to a New Teacher Pinterest Board](#) for advice, tips, and inspiration from Core Advocates. We all have things we wish we'd been told when we were starting out – and that we make sure to share with new teachers we meet. See what your colleagues across the country have said to new teachers. Download and share these inspirational messages on your own social media accounts! Thanks to everyone who submitted their advice!

Thinking about instructional materials? Wondering materials are aligned to college- and career-ready standards? Looking for more information aligned materials? Read more on these topics on *Aligned's* blog post [State of Our Classrooms: Instructional Materials](#).

This is the time of year to create goals that will set you and your students up for success this school year. Learn how to create effective, action-focused goals using the S.M.A.R.T structure in [this blog post](#) from Core Advocate, Susan Hitt. You'll also be able to download a free S.M.A.R.T goal template!

Bulletin Board

Upcoming Events

September 20
Leading the Core webinar
1 p.m. – 2 p.m. (ET)

October 4
Core Advocate Webinar
7 p.m. – 8 p.m. (ET)

October 24–25
Leading the Core Convening
Chicago, IL



School and District Leaders: Plan to Attend Leading the Core in October!

Registration is now open for our [third annual Leading the Core principal convening](#) on October 24–25, 2017 in Chicago, IL. This school and district administrator/leader-focused conference provides concurrent sessions addressing the real issues that principals face, such as:

- using classroom observation to improve teachers' practice,
- managing multiple school and district initiatives,
- ensuring that all students have access to grade-level complex texts and mathematics,
- and more!

Don't miss out on this opportunity to hear from SAP staff such as David Liben and Jason Zimba, leaders in partner organizations, and Core Advocate principals from around the country! Register by clicking [here](#).



Showcasing Our Network

Question of the Month

This Month

How do you provide support for English language learners in your classroom?

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

Last Month

Question: What is something you plan to work on with your instructional or leadership practice this school year?

Winning Answer:

"This school year, we will be utilizing the Gradual Release of Responsibility instructional framework to help increase student engagement and ownership. So many of our teachers are working hard...harder than the students, and we want to allow our teachers to be more intentional and purposeful in their focused instruction and the scaffolds they

are providing to students."

–Jennifer Walker

Other Noteworthy Answers:

This year, as I teach ASE Science, I would like to work on: using visuals to back up what I am saying or what we are discussing and exploring, using push cards (see <https://library.osu.edu/ojs/index.php/OJSM/article/view/5767/4624>), and making the class website both more interactive and easier to maintain on my part

–Lakshmi Nayak

"My teaching partner and I worked really hard to backwards lesson plan after we created a standards-based assessment."

–Christine Hanzlik-Wilcox

"I plan to mentor new teachers and teachers on strategies needed to help students prepare to be college and career ready in ELA through Professional Development for Continued Learning and Education as teacher leaders."

–Margueritta Brown

Showcasing Instructional Advocacy

Instructional Advocacy Action Form Spotlight

Core Advocates from around the country are making an impact on educators and students through their instructional advocacy! We love to hear stories about the great work being done by Core Advocates in classrooms, schools, districts, states, and beyond! Core Advocates, you can share your stories by filling out the quick Instructional Advocacy Action Form survey each time you engage in advocacy around aligned instructional practice, materials, and assessment! In the newsletter each month, we will be highlighting a response by one of the Core Advocates. Be sure to tell us about your action for a chance be selected and win SAP swag!

Denise Rawding, a New Jersey Core Advocate presented to colleagues using the Coherence Map. Denise said, "The session was called, 'Help! My students don't remember what they learned last year.' A part of the session was devoted to using the Coherence Map to backtrack standards to identify possible areas of unfinished learning that students may have. We watched some of Graham Fletcher's 3 Act math videos, identified the standard that was addressed, and mapped it. Then we talked about how they could use the Map to scaffold learners during a whole group lesson, identify small group activities to support the unfinished learning, and identify math learning station activities to allow students the time and space they need to finish the learning. The teachers were not familiar with the tool, and they commented on how they wish they had known about it before today." Thank you for sharing your instructional advocacy Denise!

Social Media Spotlight



Anyonga D. Blackwell @naturalmathgirl · Aug 2



Participating in the webinar tonight. [#coreadvocates](#) [#NCAEILI2016](#)



Tina P. Monteleone @tinamonte · Aug 3



Math in [#middleschool](#) w [@JZagorski1](#) [@NJAMLE](#) summer event
[@achievethecore](#) [@NJStandards](#) [@NatalieFranzi](#) [#coreadvocates](#) [#njed](#)





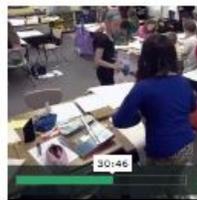
Angie Miller @mrsmillergrade1 · Aug 8

Love working with inspiring #WACoreAdvocates this week at WEA CCSS Jump Start! @ChrisKalmbach @GuilfoilEnglish & Cara



Miss Tori, M. Ed @tori_mazur · Aug 9

I love that this lesson has student work examples w/ teacher interview.
goo.gl/Hx7G5k #academicvocab #Kindergarten #CoreAdvocates



achievethecore.org @achievethecore

Watch teachers implementing standards-aligned lessons in their classrooms in these full-length videos. bit.ly/2hu1STI

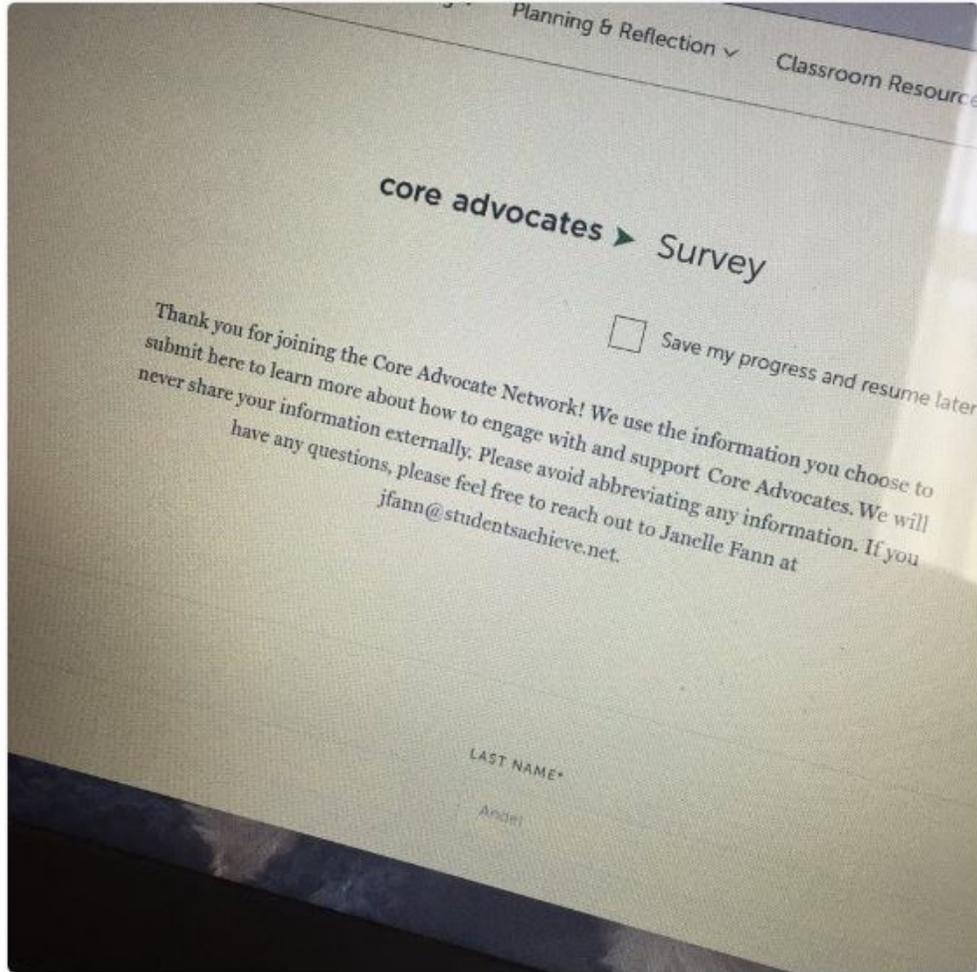


♥ Tina P. Monteleone and 2 others liked



Miss Andel @miss_andel · Aug 10

Signing up to become a core advocate! So excited to learn more about @achievethecore #CoreAdvocates



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Alison Killy @killyalison · Aug 22



Some photos of my classroom and my book baskets. #CoreAdvocates



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