

[New Tools, Core Advocate Stories and Ways to Get Involved](#)[View this email in your browser](#)

## Winter Core Advocate News!

Happy December Core Advocates! This is a busy time of year, but it is also the time of year we reflect on 2018. As we look back over the year, we are thankful for all the amazing educators we engage with. As we head into the holidays, we know you are doing amazing things for students. We hope the learning opportunities, resources, and readings in this newsletter will be helpful to you and the Core Advocate spotlights will inspire you as you head into the New Year!

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### [January Core Advocate Webinar: Foundational Skills Instruction in Action](#)

Meet our new Foundational Skills Observation Tool! This resource highlights best practices for high-quality, aligned foundational skills instruction in kindergarten through grade 2. In the webinar, you will learn how this tool can support you as a teacher, coach, or instructional leader and sign up to dive deeper with our upcoming foundational skills mini-course which starts the first week of April. [Join us](#) on Wednesday, January 9 for this webinar at 7:00 p.m. ET!

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

### [February Core Advocate Webinar: Building Mathematical Content Knowledge](#)

Content knowledge demands on educators when teaching college- and career-ready math standards are complex and figuring out where to start with deepening specialized content knowledge can be difficult. In this webinar, we will engage in a process to build math content knowledge, including doing rich math tasks and looking at resources and tools available from Achieve the Core and Illustrative Mathematics to develop specialized content knowledge for teaching. This process for building content knowledge of any math topic is a model that can be used independently by teachers, in

PLCs, or other professional learning structures. [Join us](#) on Wednesday, February 6 for this webinar at 7:00 p.m. ET!

Register for the February Core Advocate Webinar!

## 2019 Line-Up of SAP Virtual Mini-Courses!

During the 2018–2019 school year, Student Achievement Partners will host virtual mini-courses to support college- and career-ready, standards-based instruction. The courses will center on practical, equitable, research-based instructional practices to advance achievement for all students. Each mini-course is an independent learning opportunity and participants are not required to take all courses.

Mini-courses are open to all educators. We invite state, regional, or district Core Advocate networks and groups of colleagues to join the courses together. Put these dates on your calendar now to hold time for the courses!

- Spring Mini-Course: Foundational Skills Instruction in Action: Course Starts on April 2 (registration will be available on February 4)
- Summer Mini-Course: Building Teacher Content Knowledge of High-Leverage Math Topics: Dates TBD

### [Webinar: Learning to Read and Reading to Learn](#)

Most educators would agree that early literacy is key to student achievement. As teachers, we all try to ensure that our students read proficiently, build knowledge on important topics that engage and inspire, and develop a lifetime love of reading. But what is the most effective way to support emerging and developing readers? How can we teach the foundational skills of early reading while building students' confidence and setting early readers up for success in English Language Arts and beyond? Watch [this recorded webinar](#) with Lorraine Griffith from Great Minds and Carey Swanson from SAP.



## Job Opportunities for Core Advocates

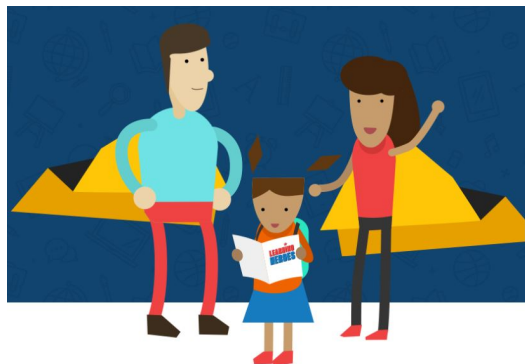
[Khan Academy](#) is hiring a Math Content Creator to help expand and improve their elementary math content. This is a temporary contractor position for 3–6 months with the flexibility of 20 to 40 hours per week. The work involves improving Khan Academy's 3rd–5th grade math courses, with a special focus on CCSS math alignment. If you are

interested in this position, check out the [job posting here](#).

Apply to be an [EdReports](#) reviewer! As a [content reviewer with EdReports](#), you'll have the opportunity for professional growth and leadership development while contributing your expertise to equip educators across the country with the tools they need to ensure students are inspired to learn and graduate college and career ready. EdReports currently reviews K–12 math, English Language Arts, and science instructional materials. As a reviewer, you'll get more than 25 hours of online and in-person professional development with EdReports staff and other content reviewers, a stipend per series reviewed, opportunities to grow as a leader, and to learn with national experts in the field, and a supportive network of fellow educators!

## [An Excellent Resource for Parents: Learning Heroes](#)

Learning Heroes is a nonprofit organization that gives parents useful information and practical ideas for helping their children thrive in school and life. The Learning Heroes website helps parents understand how to best support their children's education and connect them to resources from some of the nation's most trusted experts and organizations such as the National PTA, Scholastic, Common Sense Media, GreatSchools, Univision, and more. Jason Zimba writes about his favorite Learning Heroes tool, The Readiness Check, in this article: [Parents: Is Your Child on Track at School?](#) Check out all the Learning Heroes resource at [www.belearninghero.org/](http://www.belearninghero.org/)



## [Provide Feedback to SAP on the newly released Foundational Skills Observation Tool!](#)

Have you been using SAP's newly released Foundational Skills Observation Tool? If so, we are currently [seeking feedback](#) to ensure that the FSOT meets your needs as best as possible. This survey should take you about 3–5 minutes to complete. If you haven't heard of the FSOT, it is a complement to the [Foundational Skills Guidance Documents](#) and should be used along with instructional materials that provide explicit and systematic instruction and practice. Make sure to check it out today!

## [Improve you students' reading skills](#)

NEW! Improve your students' reading skills with both short and long-term strategies. This helpful [Do/Don't chart](#) helps teachers recognize ineffective classroom practices and

integrate proven activities to help students become better readers.

## [Revised Lesson Planning Tool](#)

Check out our newly revised [Lesson Planning Tool](#)! This digital resource guides teachers through a series of prompts about the lesson content, structure, and activities to ensure the Shifts required by college- and career-ready standards are central to the lesson. The tool has recently been updated to reflect changes made to the Instructional Practice Guide to improve the clarity and concreteness of the indicators.

## [Question of the Month](#)

What is your go-to Achieve the Core tool or resource and how do you use it?

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

### October's Question of the Month Winner!

Question: What resources or strategies do you use to communicate with families about the grade-level expectations, curriculum, and content of your grade level?

Winning Answer:

"Each grade level at my school sends home a weekly newsletter on Tuesdays."  
-Alison Killy


## Social Media Spotlight

Looking to grow your professional network on Twitter? Follow some of these outstanding educators. Just click the images below to go directly to their Twitter profiles. Don't forget to follow #CoreAdvocates for great conversations and tips.



**Angel Sánchez** @sanrau · Oct 1

RT achievethecore: Wondering about the connection of math materials and assessments? Take a look at this latest Aligned post: [bit.ly/2NVJXVS](https://bit.ly/2NVJXVS) #mathchat #iteachmath #coreadvocates [bit.ly/2y1stMP](https://bit.ly/2y1stMP)



**The Connection Between Math Materials and Asses...**  
Why is it the case that some students' test scores look so different across assessments of the same content? The short answer is that not all assessments assess the st...  
[achievethecore.org](https://achievethecore.org)



♥ Kelli Freiwald liked



**Celia Jimenez** @segarrac · Oct 9

Maths Ts @NewRenCavaliers diving into the Mathematical Shift 3 #Rigor while discussing & sorting the Rigor cards from @achievethecore #coreadvocates @BrowardMath

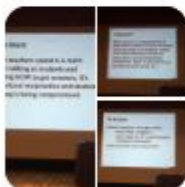


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**Chris Kalmbach** @ChrisKalmbach · Nov 1

S/he that does the work, does the learning. Pls get out of the way & let Ss make meaning. Maths is not so much to be done quickly and w/o error, but to be understood and applied well. #CoreAdvocates #MTBoS



**Erin Hone** @erinhone712

If we stand by and let this happen, we are part of the problem. We have to be leaders. We are in it for the kids and their learning CANNOT be compromised!!! #NCCTM18 #ElonEd

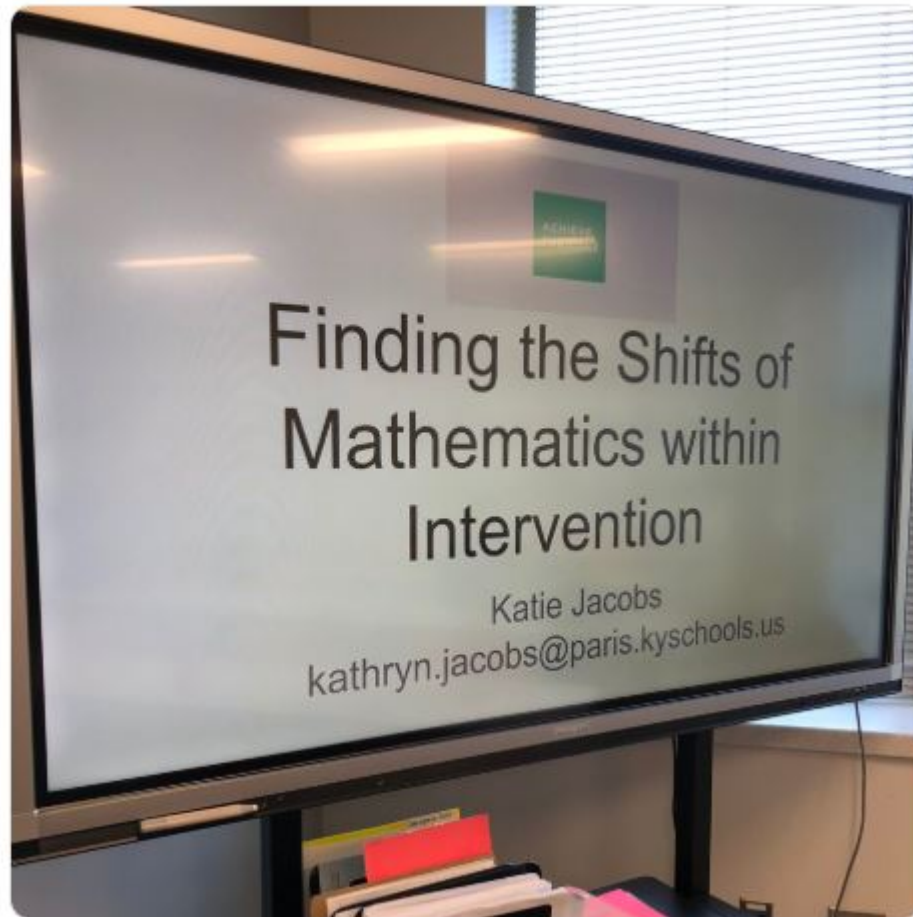
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**Katie Jacobs** @katiedjacobs · Nov 3

What resources are offered to support intervention in math? Let me tell ya!

#coreadvocates #KCTM2018 @achievethecore @KCTMky



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**Steven Bilski** @Steven\_Bilski · Nov 7

Just participated in the Math Language Routines webinar! Came away with some great resources that I can't wait to share with my team. #CoreAdvocates

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**Brenda Yoho** ~#Bethesolution @BrendaYoho · Nov 14

Awesome activity! This is also a great way to engage your staff/students to learn about a topic or to generate discussions! Love ❤️ it! Excited 😊 to do! #edchat #coreadvocates #CoreAdvocatesChallenge @achievethecore



**achievethecore.org** @achievethecore

Your voice is your choice! Complete four activities to share your expertise and possibly win an Amazon gift card! Read here to learn more: [bit.ly/25Ctqoq](https://bit.ly/25Ctqoq)

#CoreAdvocatesChallenge #coreadvocates #edchat

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## ACHIEVE THE CORE

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