

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

February Core Advocate News!

We hope all the Core Advocates around the country are staying warm this winter! As you are bundled in this February, take time to look over the abundant resources, opportunities, and Core Advocate spotlights in this edition of the Core Advocate Newsletter! During February we want to be sure to let you know we love Core Advocates! Thank you for dedicating yourselves to students every day.

[March Core Advocate Webinar: High School Mathematics: The Reveal of the Extended Coherence Map](#)

[Join us](#) for our March Core Advocate webinar, "High School Mathematics: The Reveal of the Extended Coherence Map." In this webinar, you'll be one of the first to dive into the extension of the Map through high school. We will address the decisions that were made regarding course structures, plus standards, and standards/standard parts. And you will learn why mapping the conceptual category of Modeling for high school may be one of the most intriguing aspects of the revised map. We cannot wait to share the addition to one of our most popular resources! Join us on Wednesday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m. ET!

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

[Virtual PLC Learning Opportunity for Core Advocates: Planning, Teaching, and Reflecting on Foundational Skills Instruction!](#)

In April, we will kick off a Virtual Professional Learning Community, "Planning, Teaching, and Reflecting on Foundational Skills Instruction." If you are a K-2 classroom teacher, or someone who supports K-2 literacy instruction (coach, instructional specialist, principal, etc.), we hope you will join us for this four-week professional learning experience, between April 2 and 30! During the Virtual PLC, participants will have the opportunity to:

- Examine and discuss evidence of standards-aligned, research-based practices outlined in the Foundational Skills Observation Tool.
- Use the Foundational Skills Observation Tool to observe authentic lesson content and analyze collected evidence.
- Apply what you're learning to use of the Foundational Skills Observation Tool in your own setting through observation, planning, reflection or professional development.
- Provide feedback on clarity and usefulness of Foundational Skills Observation Tool.

To learn more, see the [Virtual PLC flyer](#), and [register here](#):

Register for the Foundational Skills Virtual PLC!

[Professional Learning Videos and Twitter Chats Available from NY Core Advocates](#)

The NY Core Advocates have created a website www.nycoreadvocates.com which houses ELA and math professional development videos, available to educators everywhere! Videos on a variety of topics are available to view now, on-demand, and new videos are released each month, focusing on topics such as text sets and the math [Coherence Map](#). Follow-up Twitter Chats are scheduled after each video has been released. Follow [@nycoreadvocates](https://twitter.com/nycoreadvocates) on Twitter for more information!



Writing Opportunity for Core Advocates!

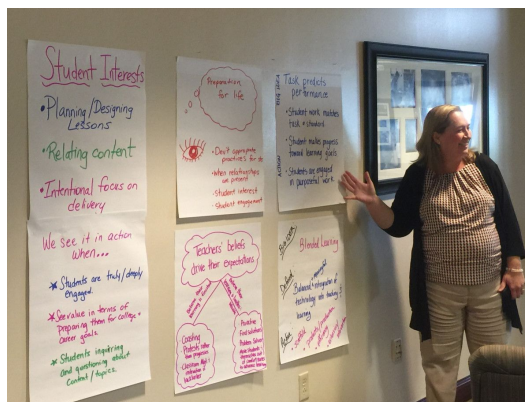
Have you considered writing for [Aligned](#) but were nervous about drafting a full blog post? We have the opportunity for you! We are looking for authors to draft “My Perspective” paragraphs on specific topics. You only need to write one paragraph (200 words or less) and we’ll compile select responses into an Aligned post that features a variety of perspectives on the same topic. This month’s topics are:

- [How I’ve used an Achieve the Core mini-assessment with my students](#)
- [How I use exit tickets in my classroom](#)

[I'm passionate about curriculum because I am](#)

passionate about pedagogy.

In this article, published by Curriculum Matters, Core Advocate Jana Beth Francis says, "In Daviess County Public Schools, we think about curriculum as the combination of your standards, your resources, and your pedagogy. I know that's not everyone's definition... some folks hear curriculum and think "content" while others still seem to confuse curriculum with standards. I'd like to challenge us to redefine curriculum, as part of a national conversation. It's time to put the 'instruction' back in 'curriculum & instruction.'" Read more about the curriculum-related work in Daviess County, Kentucky in the article both at the [Curriculum Matters website](#) and on the [Aligned Blog](#)!



SAP and Learning Forward team up for Summer Institute: Core Advocates are invited!

Student Achievement Partners will be joining [Learning Forward](#) this summer in Boston for Learning Forward's Summer Institute on July 18–21, 2019! This Institute will help educators strengthen their capacity to reach all students by building strong connections among high-quality instructional materials, aligned instructional practice, aligned assessments, and standards-based professional learning. The Learning Forward Summer Institute is for everyone, from classroom teachers, to school-based instructional leaders, to district-level leaders and school and district teams are encouraged to attend together. We hope Core Advocates will bring their colleagues! For details, check out the [Learning Forward Summer Institute website](#). More information about keynotes, sessions, and schedules will be added over the coming months.

Aligned has been remodeled!

[Aligned](#) has a new look, new features, and (of course) lots of new articles! After collecting feedback from our readers, we knew we needed to make it easier to browse and find related content. To help, we created new site categories, added topic-specific tags to each post, and redesigned our website to spotlight both what is new and the most popular articles everyone is reading. Stop by to explore the new site and find ideas to support your instruction.

New Mini-Assessments on Achieve the Core!

Are you a fan of SAP's mini-assessments? Did you know we have recently added three more to our ever-growing list of assessments? Our newly added assessments feature content from "Night," "Tree Rings," and "To Build a Fire." Student Achievement Partners has been adding ELA mini-assessments to its suite on Achieve the Core, based on specific requests from our Core Advocates. Be sure to check your grade level [here](#) to see if there is a mini-assessment you would like to use in your classroom, and keep an eye out for more postings in the future.

Question of the Month

What makes professional learning effective; what content, structures, and/or processes have you experienced in effective professional learning?

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

December's Question of the Month Winner!

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

Winning Answer:

"I love the [lesson planning tool](#) because the questions make me look deeply at what I want students to be able to do in the lesson, as well as how this lesson fits into the broader impact that I want my instruction to have on my students! While this is ostensibly more a help to my own practice and time management, it also keeps best practices for content instruction at the fore, which benefits my students as well!"

–Elizabeth Arias

Other Noteworthy Answers:

"As a Literacy Coach, I use the [IPG tool](#) to guide discussions with teachers reflecting on read aloud lessons."

–Shannon Taylor

"Mine is the math [Coherence Map](#). I am a K–12 Math Specialist. I not only use this tool for myself for a quick lookup of standards and examples, but I also use with teachers. At a small level, I show teachers what their standard is as well as the standards right before and after them so they know where their students are coming from and where they are going. This has really helped delete a lot of overlap in our curriculum. Teachers now feel comfortable simply reviewing a topic instead of taking a ton of time to reteach it. They also like to know what they need to get their students ready to do."

–Jen Trueman

"My go-to Achieve the Core tools/resources are the quantitative and qualitative scales for [text complexity](#). As an Education Specialist, I use these tools to support teachers in identifying appropriate grade-level complex texts that are worthy of instruction."

–Carly Weiland Quiros

"I use the [Major Work of the Grade](#) documents almost weekly in my coaching sessions


with math instructors. It supports our teacher professional development model perfectly in that it helps teachers stay focused on critical pieces of the learning that prepare students for college and career. This tool encourages teachers to go deep and allow their students to become masters of the concepts, rather than going an inch deep and a mile wide."

-Tina De La Fe

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.

Curriculum Matters liked

 **Jody Guarino** @jody_guarino · Jan 4

@DrakeJcdrake1 @g_delreal @EdReports @mymathsoul @ocdestem
@CurriculumMatsr #coreadvocates

 **Learning Forward** @LearningForward

Seeking true collaboration with its community, a California district built teachers' capacity to evaluate and select new curricula. Professional learning was at the heart of their approach. Learn more: ow.ly/mV2C30n49oQ ...

Reply Retweet 3 Like



Richard Bobinchuck @RBobinchuck · Jan 7



@BrowardMath teachers #Engaged in the Shifts in Math, Ell Strategies, & Grade 7 math content. #MathIsFun #WorkHarder #Discourse #Leadership #LeadByExample #ContinuousImprovement #Growth #Success @4flstandards #CoreAdvocates @ELlevationED @BrowardESOL

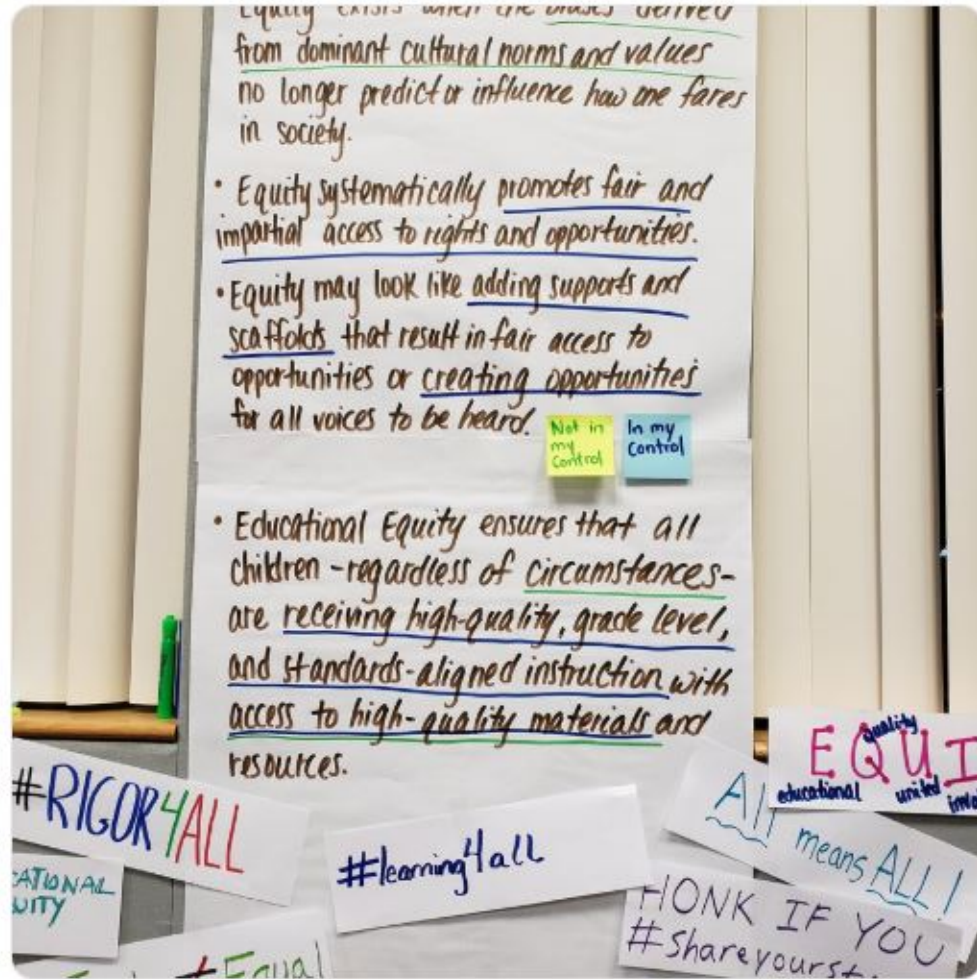


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casey monahan @casey_monahan · Jan 10

Great learning this evening unpacking equity before taking a dive into the ELA shifts. #rigor4all #equity @achievethecore @WACoreAdvocates @ESDteam123 – at ESD 123



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Trisha Shannon @TrishShan17 · Jan 15

How are you using the Math Focus Documents from @achievethecore in your PLCs? #iacoreadvocates #coreadvocates #instructionaladvocacy #iowamath @mrsstipemath @apriliowamath

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Liz Rappold @LizRappold · Jan 19

#Traskmiddle teachers have been creating some awesome choice boards! Check out some more ideas here... achievethecore.org/aligned/giving... #nhcschat @achievethecore #CoreAdvocates



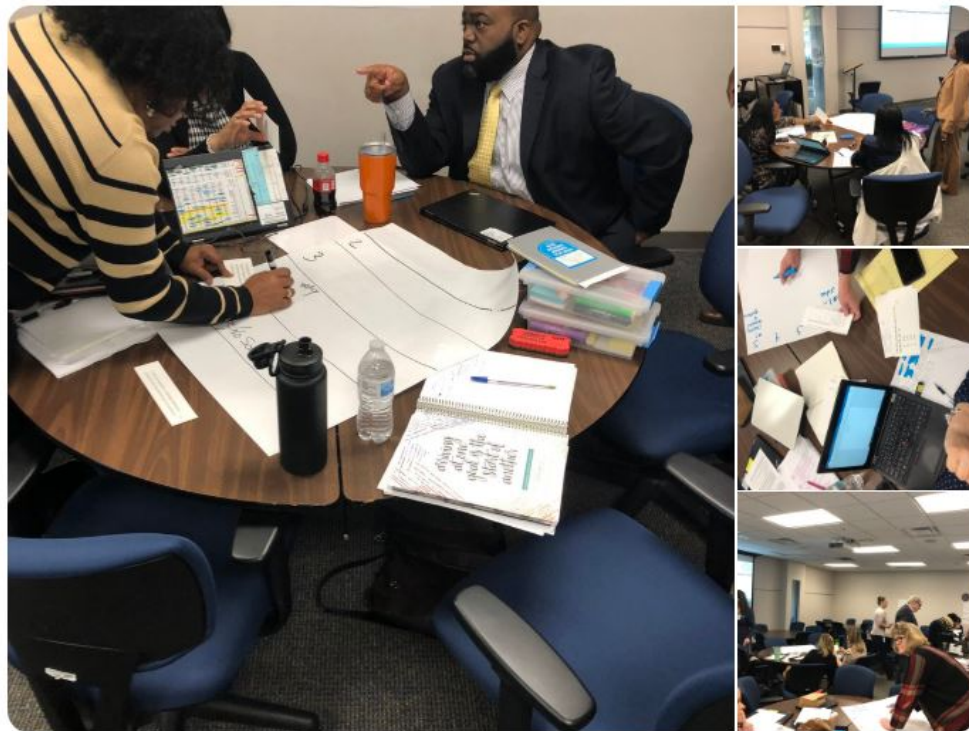
Giving Students a Choice with Their Learning - Ach...

Choice Boards How do we ensure all of our students are engaged in their learning? How do we create activities that support our students' learning and still give them c...
achievethecore.org



Shawn Wigg @shawnwigg · Jan 24

@DuvalSchools Principals are engaging in some hands-on Professional Development on Achievement Level Descriptions. Analyzing student work, implementing interventions. #coreadvocates #support #PD #leadership #wearedcps #studentsfirst #instruction #iteachmath



ACHIEVE THE CORE

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