

## core advocates ► Newsletter



### Spring Core Advocate Engagement!

April is here and that means spring break, warmer days, and a new Core Advocate newsletter for you! We at Student Achievement Partners are working hard to prepare another Core Advocate convening in Denver next month, and we're looking forward to seeing many of you there. But don't worry if you're not able to attend this year; you can share in the learning through the newsletters and our monthly Core Advocate webinars. We will use your input (see the responses from last month's question, "What topics would you like to see on upcoming webinars?") to ensure that we plan for topics that matter most to you. Join us the first Wednesday of each month from 7:00 – 8:00 PM Eastern time. And if you aren't able to join live, you can always check out the [archived webinar recordings](#) on Achieve the Core! Watch the recording of our March webinar, Supporting All Learners in Accessing Grade-Level Mathematics [here](#).

### Jump to April 2017 Highlights

[Principals' Webinar](#)

[In the News: Writing In Math](#)

[Louisiana Core Advocates](#)

### Resources

# Classroom Connections

## What I Use In My Classroom

Looking for new resources? See what your fellow Core Advocates have recommended! At the beginning of the school year, Core Advocates shared their favorite resources in the [What I Use in My Classroom](#) Resource document. It was so popular, we decided to turn it into its own interactive website and add additional new resources with new Core Advocate authors. Now you can visit [www.whatiuseinmyclassroom.org](http://www.whatiuseinmyclassroom.org) to search by ELA, Math, Social Studies, Science, Professional Development, and Digital Resources, to see teacher-authored reviews. Each review includes a personal reflection on how the teacher has used it, why they like it, and what they think you should be aware of before you try it yourself.

## Free ELA Curriculum!

Education nonprofit Open Up Resources and curriculum author EL Education (formerly Expeditionary Learning) are now offering the free [EL Education K–5 English Language Arts \(ELA\) program](#). The year-long, fully-digital curriculum builds upon the 3–5 curriculum Expeditionary Learning produced in 2012, to now include grades K–2! The curriculum includes hands-on activities and lessons around popular texts such as “Esperanza Rising.” The full curriculum, including the K–2 addition, will be available for the 2017 to 2018 school year.

## Assessment

Interested in reviewing the types of standards-aligned assessment items that your students will see on upcoming summative assessments? Check out the Item Alignment Modules for [ELA](#) and [Math](#).

## Your Own Learning

### Webinars

## Core Advocate Webinar

The entire SAP team will be traveling to Denver to prepare for the annual Core Advocate convening Impact Through Instructional Advocacy, but we didn't want you to miss out on the monthly learning from the Core Advocate webinars! In the week leading up to May 3, please view the recording of two of our most popular webinars: [A Different Look at the Causes of the Achievement Gap in Reading](#) featuring David Liben, or [Rigor in Math: Why Rigor Doesn't Mean Harder](#) featuring Marni Greenstein. Then, on March 3 from 7:00 – 8:00 PM join us for a live Twitter chat to discuss these great topics. Be sure to use #coreadvocates and #MayCA-ELA or #MayCA-math to follow the conversation.

## Leading the Core Principals' Webinar

Are you a principal or other school administrator and appreciate the collegiality of the Core Advocate Network? Are you an educator who knows a principal who would benefit from learning about the Shifts and college- and career-ready standards-aligned instruction? All are welcome on our monthly Leading the Core webinar series designed specifically for the needs of school administrators and anchored firmly in the Instructional Practice Guides. Join us on the third Wednesday of each month for principal-focused learning, collaboration, and support. On April 19, we will explore the Instructional Practice Toolkit as a resource to train colleagues and begin school-wide work on instruction that results in student learning. Register using the link below, and share the link with your administrator colleagues!

[Register](#)

## GoMath! Guidance Documents Webinar

Student Achievement Partners and Illustrative Mathematics have partnered to further align GO Math!\* curriculum and deepen teacher understanding of standards.

[Register here](#) for a free webinar on Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm EDT/12:00pm PDT. Participants will learn about:

- The Guidance Documents Student Achievement Partners has developed to further align GO Math! curriculum to standards.
- Fluency Resources for Grade-Level Routines
- A professional learning day ideal for Grade 3–5 teachers using GO Math! curriculum

[Register here](#)

If you are unable to attend the webinar live, no problem! Just register for the event, and we will notify you when the recorded session is available to view.

*\*GO Math! is a registered trademark of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*

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## In the News

Why Writing About Math Is The Best Part

## Of Common Core

Check out [this thoughtful reflection](#) from a college physics professor. He explains why explaining answers and truly understanding mathematics, even in the early grades, is critically important to future success. He says, "I teach at an elite private liberal arts college, so the students we see in intro physics are mostly "good at math," in the sense of "got good grades in high school for getting the correct numerical answers." Many of them, however, are absolutely terrible at understanding what the numbers mean, and why the algorithms they use to solve problems generate the numbers that they do. Which leaves them basically helpless when it comes to identifying the mistakes that they will inevitably make along the way."



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## Opportunities for Core Advocates

### Upcoming Core Advocate Events

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

June 3–4  
Nevada Standards Advocates Meeting  
Reno, NV

June 10–11  
California Core Advocates Meeting  
Orange County, CA



### Apply to Attend EQUIP Summits

Achieve is excited to announce the upcoming release of two new tools to support the implementation of high-quality instructional materials: the EQUIP Task Rubrics and the Student Work Analysis Tool.

To help roll out these new tools, Achieve is hosting two EQUIP Summits: the EQUIP Summit East from May 31 – June 2 in Orlando, FL and EQUIP Summit West from June 5 – 7 in San Diego, CA. Each summit will walk participants through both the EQUIP Task

Rubrics and the Student Work Analysis Tool, and provide dedicated time for exploring how best to use them in support of improving instructional materials. We're looking for teams of 2–3 individuals from 20–25 different schools or districts to join us for each summit. Districts and schools interested in attending either summit should [click here](#) to learn more and to apply.

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## Bulletin Board

### We'll See You In Denver!

Attending our annual Core Advocates meeting in Denver? You should have received an email with the full program so you can select your sessions, submit for Unconference sessions, or submit an IGNITE! talk. All information needs to be submitted by Monday, April 17th. We can't wait to see you in Denver!

### Balanced Literacy in Denver

Balanced Literacy Practitioners– will we see you in Denver? If so, check out what your fellow Core Advocates have been doing to support the Shifts in BL Classrooms. Check out the "Book Basket Challenge" and "Who's Doing The Work?" sessions.

## Showcasing Our Network

### Question of the Month

#### This Month

How do you connect with educators outside your school or district to network or collaborate?

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

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#### Last Month

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

Winning Answer: "I would like to see how to implement [Number Talks](#) into middle and high grade math classes!"

– *Rebecca Wilson*

Other Noteworthy Answers:

"Effective ways to help students work with different mathematical representations."

– *Charles Miller*

"Foundational skills for teaching reading."

– *Katy Scherr*

"Fact fluency for math."

– *Katie Penney*

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## Showcasing Instructional Advocacy

### Louisiana Core Advocates

The Cajundome in Lafayette, Louisiana was the locale of the latest convening of Core Advocate catalysts where almost 60 new Louisiana educators joined the [Louisiana Core Advocate network](#) to launch state-wide work on using text-dependent questions to help students access complex text, and attending to the coherence of mathematics in tasks, lessons, and vertical articulation work. Congratulations on a successful meeting and we look forward to more great Core Advocate work in Louisiana.



### 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:

- Rob Woodworth -- [Top 5 Questions About ELA Scaffolding in High School](#)
- Joshua Zagorski -- [Forming a United Whole -- The Coherence Map](#)
- Danielle Brown -- [Empowering Primary Math Teachers](#)

Share what you're doing

## Social Media Spotlight



Leader of Change liked



**Leader of Change** @MrThompson3 · Mar 28

Replying to @sdsbrook1

We are limited in our own conceptual understanding of standards and how each grade levels builds on one another. [#coreadvocates](#)



**Roxanne B. Friday** @CMSDiscliteracy · Mar 21

Reading many texts about the same topic is one way to build a word-rich environment. What text sets have you used?

[#coreadvocates](#)





Amanda @AmandaAbcofill · Mar 18  
#coreadvocates A weekend of math.



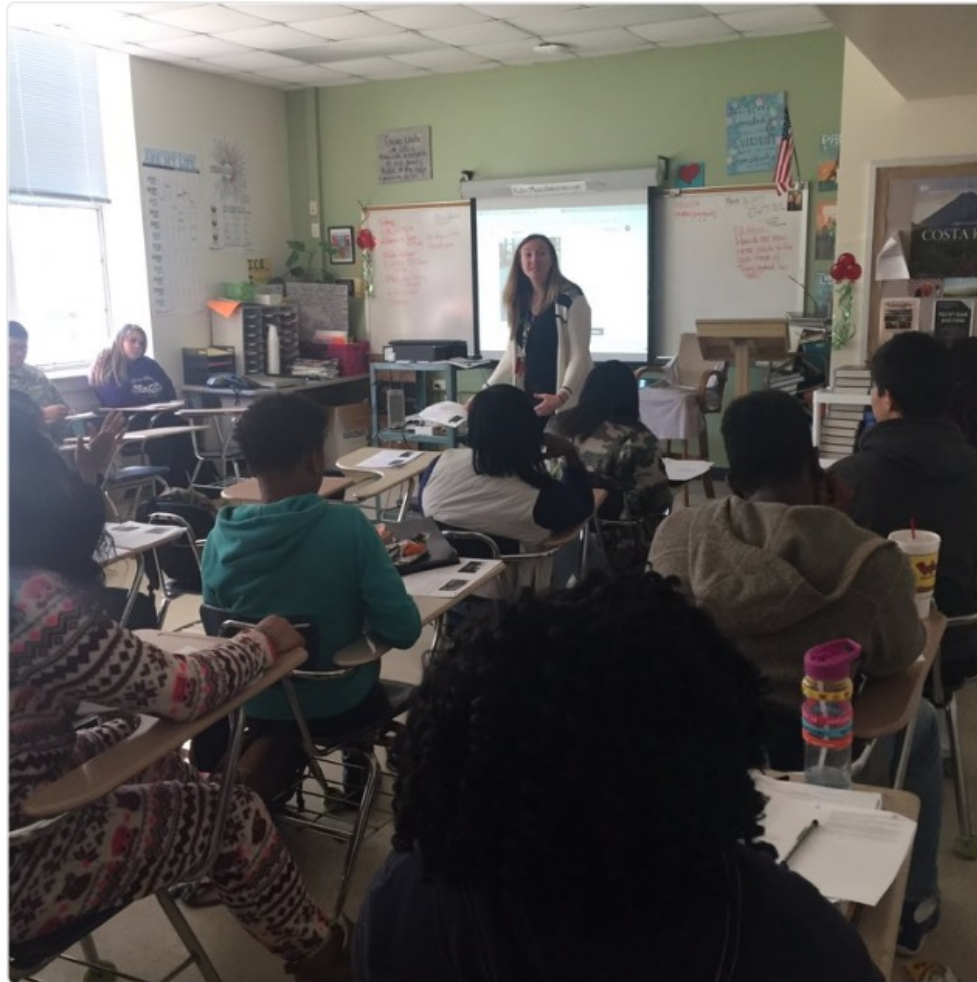
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**Andrea Raines** @araines\_ · Mar 16

Modeling effective read aloud and think alouds in a high school english class  
#nhcschat #coreadvocates @SusanHitt



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## ACHIEVE THE CORE

Assembled by Student Achievement Partners  
58 East 11th Street  
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