

core advocates ► Newsletter

Because you're a Core Advocate

Many of us at Student Achievement Partners remember our January days in schools and districts, when cold weather, less daylight, and a long stretch to spring break contributed to some winter doldrums! We hope you're taking care of yourself ([this](#) article recommends eating chocolate – we agree), and because you're a Core Advocate, take a moment to engage in some personal learning and inspirational stories in this month's newsletter. We'd love to hear what you're up to so we can feature your story as inspiration in an upcoming newsletter! Tell us today by clicking [here](#), and keep reading to make your January day a little brighter.

Jump to January 2017 Highlights

[Don't miss the February webinar, Complex Text for ALL](#)

[Registration for May Core Advocates Convening now open](#)

[Connecticut state campaigns launch](#)

Resources

Classroom Connections

Rethinking Classroom Libraries

Is your classroom library set up to support what we know works to build students' knowledge and vocabulary? Are your students interested in reading to learn about new topics? Check out the impact of [the Book Basket Project](#), where

a group of Core Advocates organized their classroom libraries by topics instead of levels. The effect on students' reading engagement, enthusiasm, and motivation was phenomenal!



Classroom Resources by the Month

February is Black History Month. Instead of searching and sorting for applicable classroom resources on [Achieve the Core](#), save a few moments by pulling up our [guide to classroom resources, organized by month](#). Use that extra time for yourself – chocolate, anyone?

Your Own Learning

Webinars

February Webinar: Supporting ALL Learners in Accessing Complex Text

Research tells us that students' ability to work with complex text is the most important factor in college- and career- readiness in reading. Challenges arise for teachers when students struggle to engage with complex text in their classes. In this month's [Core Advocate webinar](#), learn about effective instructional practices to support students who are most challenged by complex text. Register [here](#) and tune in on February 1st from 7:00 – 8:00 EST.

[Register](#)

Principals' Webinars

In follow-up to the 2016 Leading the Core meeting, we will be hosting monthly follow-up webinars for school and district administrators and other instructional leaders on the second Wednesday of each month from 7:00 – 8:00 PM Eastern Time. You do not need to have attended Leading the Core to join the webinars! If you missed our first webinar, you can access the recording and resources [here](#). Be sure to email [Joanie Funderburk](#) to receive calendar invitations for the monthly calls.

State of Our Classrooms

We're inviting Core Advocates to share information about their schools and districts. Your responses will inform our work and help direct our efforts in supporting you and your fellow educators.

The *State of Our Classrooms – Instructional Materials* questionnaire offers the opportunity for you and other teachers and leaders across the country to provide insight on the materials in use in your schools and districts. By completing the questionnaire, you will also be entered in twice-weekly raffles for the chance to win water bottles, tote bags, and \$25 Amazon gift cards. Complete all of the quarterly questionnaires and you will automatically receive a \$25 Amazon gift card.

This should take approximately 25 –30 minutes to complete. All information collected in questionnaires will be treated confidentially.

If you haven't already done so take the [questionnaire](#) today!

Progressive Math Curriculum Project

The math team at Student Achievement Partners is launching a pilot project for current users of progressive math programs. We will be conducting a series of small pilot projects that will provide small adaptations to improve these programs' alignment to the Standards and Shifts. If you are a teacher or coach using *Bridges*, *Everyday Math*, *Investigations*, *Connected Math Project (CMP3)*, *Core Connections (CPM)* or *Carnegie* and would like more information on the pilot projects, please complete [this brief survey](#).

Bulletin Board



National Core Advocates Convening – Applications Now Open

We are already hard at work planning our third annual Core Advocates Convening in Denver on May 6–7, 2017. This year's meeting, *Impact Through Instructional Advocacy*, will focus Core Advocates on working through the roadblocks and obstacles they face in implementing, supporting and promoting Standards– and Shifts– aligned instruction, materials, and assessments. A \$250 registration fee provides the opportunity to collaborate with Student Achievement Partners and other Core Advocates from across the country. Don't miss this great opportunity! Apply today by clicking [here](#). Applications are open through February 3.

Get Involved

Are you curious about how the Every Student Succeeds Act ([ESSA](#)) will impact you in your state? Currently, several states([CT](#), [IL](#), [MD](#), [MI](#), [NM](#), [OK](#), [OR](#), [TN](#), [WA](#), [WV](#), and [WI](#)) are actively soliciting feedback around their plan to implement the law. Live in one of the listed states? Click on the state name above to be taken to a survey where you can provide your thoughts on how ESSA should be implemented in your state. Don't see your state listed? Don't worry, your state Department Of Education is still working on ESSA, they simply are not seeking public input at this time. If you have questions or concerns, review your DOE website to find information on how the law will work in your state.

Other State Opportunities

Arizona teachers: are you interested in getting involved in the development of AZMERIT? Click on [this link](#) to fill out an application to join the Assessment Section Committee.

Colorado teachers: your state standards are currently under review. You can use [this link](#) to provide feedback and input through February 17.

Pennsylvania teachers: are you interested in getting involved in the development of Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), the Keystone Exams, and the Classroom Diagnostic Tool (CDT)? Click on [this link](#) to fill out an application to join the Pennsylvania Assessment Committee

Upcoming Events

January 21–22
OH Standards Advocates Catalyst Meeting
Columbus, OH

February 11–12
CO Core Advocates Catalyst Meeting
Denver, CO

March 18–19
LA Core Advocates Catalyst Meeting
Lafayette, LA

May 6–7
Impact Through Instructional Advocacy



National Core Advocates Convening
Denver, CO

Core Advocates at NCTM

Are you planning to attend the NCTM Annual Conference in San Antonio this May? Did you know that SAP will feature a booth in the Exhibit Hall? We'd love to connect with you at the conference, for a Core Advocates- only Happy Hour, and by having you visit and/or staff our booth. Let us know you're coming [here](#) and we'll be in touch with the details!

Connecticut Core Advocates Launch State Campaigns

On a cold and snowy weekend in Hartford, a dedicated group of Connecticut Core Advocates came together to begin ongoing work with other CT educators in math and ELA/literacy. The weekend focused attendees on resources and learning activities aligned to coherence in math and supporting all students in accessing complex text in ELA/literacy. Thanks to all who joined! Contact the [CT Core Advocate leadership team](#) to get involved in this great work!



Showcasing Our Network

Question of the Month

This Month

How have you successfully implemented the Standards for Mathematical Practice?

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

Last Month

Question: Who is a teacher who inspired you most?

Winning Answer: "My high school geometry and algebra teacher, Mr. Maholik inspired me most. I did not believe in my abilities in math – he did. He worked with me until I realized that he was right – I can do math when I work at it! I will never forget his patience and care.

–Beth Maloney

Other Noteworthy Answers:

"Mr. Cates, my 5th grade teacher, created my love of maps and puzzles. He left in the middle of the year to take a district job and I remember crying my eyes out for days afterward."

–Angela Motter

"My fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Mathews inspired me most. Prior to being in her class, I hated going to school; however, that year I had perfect attendance because she conducted a read aloud everyday and I really enjoyed that time."

–Maya Lars

Showcasing Instructional Advocacy

The Power of Shared Learning

Jody Guarino, a Core Advocate in California, recently shared a success story with us. We hope you are inspired to share your learning and reap the rewards! And be sure you [tell us about it](#); we would love to feature you in an upcoming newsletter!

This year I was given the opportunity to extend an invitation to colleagues for Leading the Core, SAP's annual Principals' Convening. I reached out to an ELA Coordinator and an Assistant Superintendent in the county in which I work. Although I wasn't quite sure how the Assistant Superintendent would connect with the work, as they were texting me from the convening, I realized that these were the right people to invite.

They came back with an action plan, and we're creating a county-wide network. The work will center around the IPG Coaching Tool, and building the capacity of the districts we work with to improve teaching and learning.

While I've been doing this work and impacting those I have access to, I now have shared learning with colleagues. Together, we are able to lead this effort in ways that just one of us wouldn't have the capacity to do. There is power in being part of a team with shared knowledge.

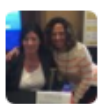


Speaking Up

Core Advocate Jessica Moore recently shared her thoughts in Chalkbeat's feature, *How I Teach*. Read [here](#) about why Jessica starts the school year with blank classroom walls. Thanks for the great ideas, Jessica!

Share what you're doing

Social Media Spotlight



Math Coach Rivera @mathcoachrivera · Jan 7

Start with the why if you want to be an inspirational leader
[@CTCoreAdvocates](#) [#ctcoreadvocates](#)



Start with why -- how great leaders inspire action | ...

Never miss a talk! SUBSCRIBE to the TEDx channel:
<http://bit.ly/1FAg8hB> TEDx Puget Sound speaker -
Simon Sinek - Start with Why: How Great Leaders Insp...
youtube.com





Ms. DePalma @mssdepalma · 21 Dec 2016

Watching @achievethecore 's webinar on #TextComplexity @NJStandards
#CoreAdvocates #MTPSpride

What *is* complex text?

- dense information
- lack of words, sentences, or paragraphs that review or connect ideas for the student
- lengthy paragraphs
- complex sentences (syntax)
- text structure that is less narrative and/or mixes structures
- subtle and/or frequent transitions
- multiple and/or subtle themes and purposes
- uncommon vocabulary
- unfamiliar settings, topics, or events
- lack of repetition, overlap, or similarity in words and sentences



Dan Alderson @alderson_dan · 7 Dec 2016

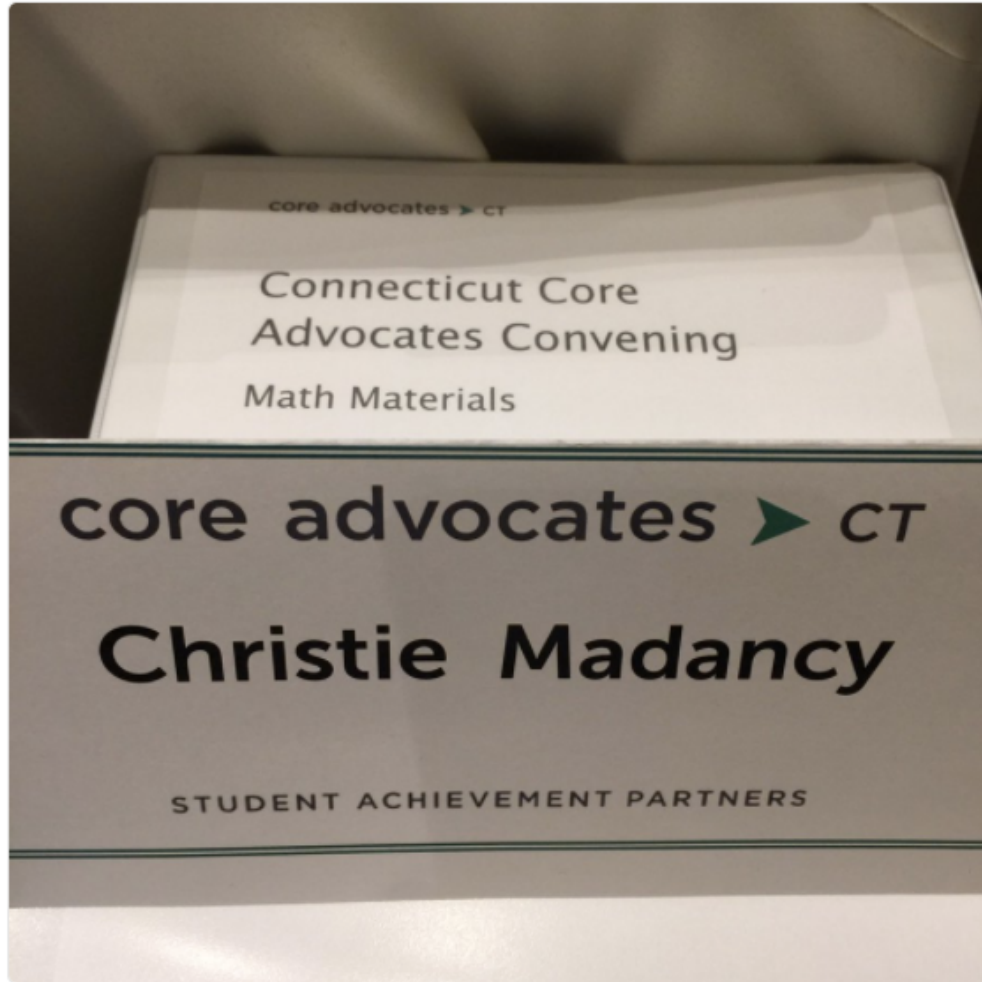
In Common student work allow Ts to see a grade-to-grade progression. What S work looks like at each gr. level. #coreadvocates





Christie Madancy @cmadancy · 23h

Spending the weekend with CT Core Advocates. Do you teach with the focus intended by our standards? [#coreadvocates](#) @CTCoreAdvocates



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