

core advocates ► Newsletter



Back to School

The 2016–17 school year is here and we hope you all are having a smooth start to the new year. To reflect the fresh start, we have updated the format of our Core Advocate Newsletter based on your feedback. Our new, sleeker design includes shorter stories and more immediately usable resources for you and your classroom. We hope you find the information valuable, and as always we welcome your [suggestions, comments and input](#).

Jump to September 2016 Highlights

[Core Advocates' Favorite Online Resources](#)

[New School Year Vision Board](#)

[Core Advocates to Meet President Obama](#)

Resources

[Classroom Connections](#)

[Free and Favorite Online Resources](#)

In partnership with the Charles and Lynn

Schusterman Family Foundation, several Core Advocates have contributed to this [What I Use in My Classroom resource document](#). Check out these great aligned resources for math, ELA/literacy, science, social studies, technology and professional learning and add to your own toolkit this school year!

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What I Use in My Classroom

Introduction

Looking for a new resource to excite and challenge your students this year? Have you been curious about professional development opportunities but aren't sure which are worth your time? While there are many free resources out there, it can be challenging to navigate the options and feel confident you're choosing the best ones. Created by experienced educators in Student Achievement Partners' Core Advocate Network, this document contains personal recommendations for the tools and resources they've seen improve student and teacher performance. The summaries include teachers' reflections on the strengths and weaknesses of each tool as well as how they've used it effectively within their own local setting.

All resources are free to access and use and align to college- and career-ready standards.

High-quality Assessment Alignment Modules

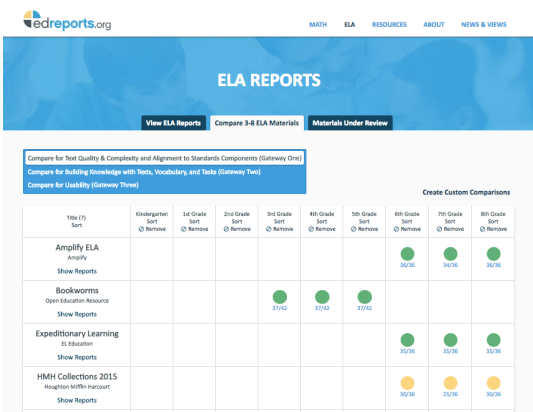
Interested in gaining a deeper understanding of high-quality summative assessment? Check out the newly released Assessment Item Alignment Modules for both [literacy](#) and [mathematics](#). Be sure to review the user guide, as it outlines the variety of ways you can use this suite of training materials.

Journeys and GO Math! User Guides

Exciting news for Journeys 2014 K-5 and GO Math! K-5 users. A comprehensive set of teacher-authored [guidance documents](#) have been released to help users make the most of these textbooks by removing less effective and misaligned content, replacing it with high-quality free resources, and maximizing the power of built-in textbook features. This guidance can be incorporated into scope and sequence documents to help educators seamlessly incorporate the adaptations into their planning and instruction.

New Reviews from EdReports

EdReports has released [22 new reviews](#) of commonly used ELA materials in grades 3-8. The EdReports review process is teacher-led and incorporates a high-quality rubric that reflects the Common Core Shifts. For educators looking for a starting place in conducting their own reviews, whether for the purpose of purchasing new materials or making targeted improvements to existing materials, the EdReports reviews are a great place to start with easy-to-read narratives and graphs.



Personal Learning

Webinars

Upcoming Webinars

Join us on September 7th from 7:00-8:00pm EDT for our monthly Core Advocate webinar. This month we will learn about Building a Deeper Understanding of the Math Standards in PLCs. There is still time for you and your colleagues to register for this

informative session using the link below.

And join us again next month when we will Build a Deeper Understanding of the ELA/Literacy Standards in PLCs. Register for the October 5th webinar using the link below.

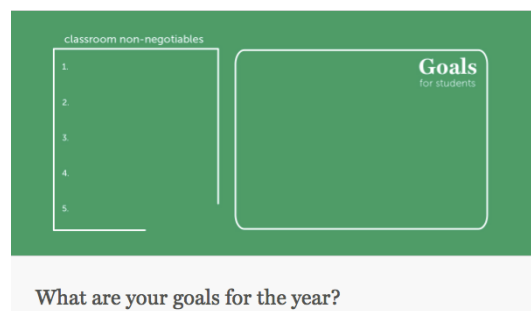
[Register for the September Webinar](#)

[Register for the October Webinar](#)

Inspiration

New School Year Vision Board

Ready to dive into the new school year with vision and purpose? Gather your colleagues along with some scissors, tape, and glue, and create your own **Vision Boards**. With free printables, goal statements, and templates, you have everything you need to create a content-focused, inspirational board that will keep you grounded and goal-oriented throughout the school year.



New Math Mini-Course from Student Achievement Partners

This October, SAP will be offering our very first deep dive virtual mini-course specifically designed to support Core Advocates in building knowledge around Standards-based instruction. The first course will be focused on an introduction to the Instructional Materials Evaluation Tool for Mathematics. Express your interest [here](#), and we look forward to your participation.

Bulletin Board

Summer Reading Challenge

Summer's winding down, but you can continue the summer reading challenge with guidance from literacy expert David Liben in his article [Which Words do I Teach and How?](#)

Your Classroom in Action

The 2016–2017 school year is starting and we want to see your classrooms! Educators around the nation are preparing for another successful school year, and that includes getting classrooms ready. Spread the Back to School spirit by showcasing your classroom. Post your photos and tag us on Facebook and Twitter, or submit photos [here](#) for us to share.

Upcoming Events

September 17-18
New Jersey Catalyst Meeting
Princeton, NJ

October 22-23
New York Catalyst Meeting
Albany, NY

November 5-6
Leading the Core Principals' Convening
Chicago, IL



Showcasing Our Network

Question of the Month

This Month

What is your goal for the new school year?

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

Last Month

Question: How are you using instructional materials that are not perfectly aligned to the Standards and the Shifts?

Winning Answer: "I use, adapt, or modify what I can, and toss out the rest. Just like going on a journey: If the road is under construction, take a detour. There's always more than one way to get where you need to be."

-Karen Staffen

Other Noteworthy Answers:

"I use EdReports.org to help me determine where I can strengthen my math curriculum. Trusting that EdReports has already completed the "leg work" of alignment, I can focus on instruction and analysis of student progress across the standards."

-Tiffany Gruen

"I tweak them! There are some good materials out there... with just a few minor adjustments they can help my students have success!"

-Paula Hulme

Showcasing Instructional Advocacy

Award Winning Core Advocates

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in
Mathematics and Science Teaching

(PAEMST) is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th grade mathematics or science (including computer science) teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. On August 22, 2016, President Obama recognized **213 educators** including four Core Advocates, as recipients of this prestigious award. Each educator receives \$10,000 and is invited to a recognition ceremony at the White House on September 8, 2016.



Congratulations to **Christine Bickett** (Mathematics, KY), **Kristin Gray** (Mathematics, DE), **Sarah Luvaas** (Mathematics, OR), and **Janice Mak** (Science, AZ) for this incredible accomplishment!

Speaking Up

NJ Core Advocate Steve Figurelli wrote a **powerful post** for the ASCD In Service blog in August. What a great way to spread the word on the importance of knowledge and vocabulary. Congratulations, Steve!

Room to Run

TNTP's latest series, **Room to Run**, showcases teacher, parent, and student voices in advocating for more rigorous, engaging education. Packed with many great ideas and inspiration, the blog is worth following. You may recognize a few of your fellow Core Advocates here!

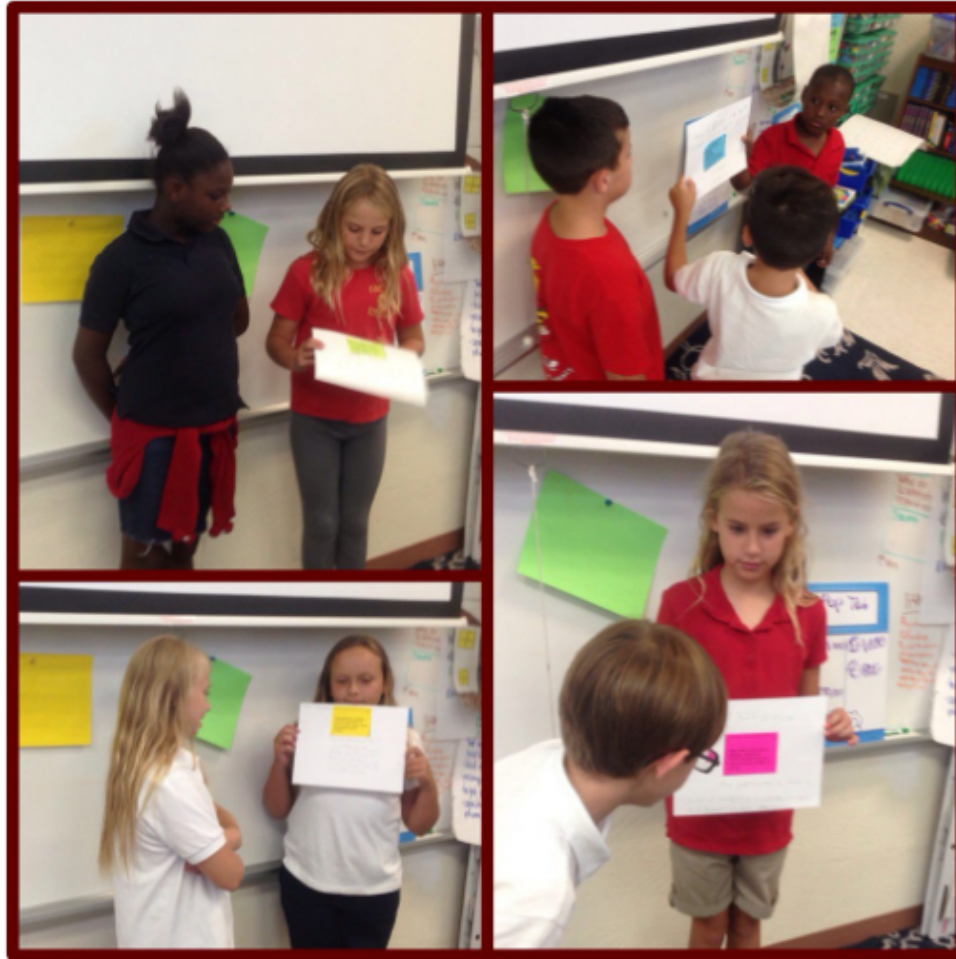
Share what you're doing

Social Media Spotlight



Amy Spies @auspies · Aug 26

@rjlCardinals Ss explaining & critiquing reasoning of others #CoreAdvocates
#ThinkingMath @jlwatson11 @Jenny__Dietz



↩️ ↻️ 3 ❤️ 11 ⋮



NV Core Advocates @NVCoreAdvocates · Aug 30

What's in our students' book tubs? A Shift that encourages our students to read broadly! #coreadvocates #TeachNVACS

Timothy Shanahan @ReadingShanahan

Should Teachers Still Be Using 'Just Right' Books?
blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curricu... via @educationweek

↩️ ↻️ ❤️ 3 ⋮



Lindsey James @mslindseyjames · Aug 16

Facing a new school year with imperfect curriculum? Try one of these suggestions. [#coreadvocates](#)

Here's what YOU can do next

- Use the [IMET](#) with a team in your setting to review your existing materials
- Use the MAP documents with your [Go Math](#) or [Journeys](#) instructional materials
- Use one or more EQuIP rubrics with a team in your setting to [review a unit, lesson](#), or [student work](#)
- Access the high-level [EdReports](#) findings for your materials, and discuss next steps with your colleagues



Theodore Mueller @MuellerTheodore · Aug 30

What does the text inspire you to do? TDQs at this level are the most rigorous & allow Ss to explore, talk, & write [#coreadvocates](#) [#NCTDQs](#)





Achieve the Core

August 17 at 2:00pm · 🌐



We want to know! Leave a comment sharing which resources you wish you had when you first started teaching. #CoreAdvocates



👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



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