



September Core Advocate News!

Happy back to school, Core Advocates! We at Student Achievement Partners hope your 2018–19 school year is off to a great start. We are excited to kick off the new school year with a new Core Advocate Newsletter format! We hope you will find the Newsletter more reader–friendly and easy to navigate. We'd love your feedback on the new design. If you have thoughts to share with us, feel free to email Jennie Beltramini at jbeltramini@studentsachieve.net.

Virtual Learning: Core Advocate Webinar Series

We are thrilled about the 2018 fall and winter lineup of webinars we have in store for Core Advocates! Mark your calendars and invite colleagues to join you the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. ET for learning, collaboration, and an opportunity to hear from Core Advocates about their classrooms and schools! Register today! Even if you can't attend, your registration ensures you get notified once recordings are available! Topics include:

- [September 12: Leveraging Pear Deck to Actively Engage Students](#)
- [October 3: Setting and Keeping Professional Learning Goals](#)
- [November 7: Math Language Routines – The What, the Why, the How](#)
- [December 5: Reading Instruction with the End in Mind: Rethinking “Reading Levels”](#)
- [January 9: Foundational Skills Instruction in Action](#)

September Core Advocate Mini–Webinar: Leveraging Pear Deck to Actively Engage Students

Take your lessons to the next level and see your students interact with instructional content in real–time using the free version of Pear Deck. In this mini–webinar, you'll learn how to create presentations and interactive student activities that allow teachers to monitor an entire classes' work at once. You'll learn how to use the tool to observe trends, understand students' thought processes, identify where you need to give more support, and more. Discover the many possibilities this user–friendly platform provides

to creatively engage your students with standards-aligned content. [Join us](#) on Wednesday, September 12 for this mini-webinar from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. ET!

Register for the September Core Advocate Mini-Webinar!

Student Achievement Partners is Hiring a Senior Math Specialist!

Student Achievement Partners is hiring a Senior Mathematics Specialist. The Senior Mathematics Specialist, as part of the Professional Learning team, will be responsible for the delivery of standards-aligned training in mathematics across our network of educators including states, districts, and partner organizations, will facilitate communities of practice, and will design delivery models intended to increase the impact of professional learning at scale. If you have expertise in teaching math, professional learning, curriculum, and college- and career-ready standards, this job may be for you! To learn more and to apply, check out the details [here](#).

The Knowledge Matters school tour: A visit to seven schools adopting high-quality English language arts curricula

In this blog post, Barbara Davidson gives her thoughts after she visited a group of schools across the country that had adopted ELA curricula highly rated by [EdReports](#). The tour was sponsored by the [Knowledge Matters Campaign](#), which seeks to lift up the stories of schools that use knowledge-rich English language arts curriculum to promote educational excellence, provide equity, and inspire in students a passion for learning. Read the author's reflections on the Knowledge Matters tour [here](#).



Question of the Month

What is one professional goal that you plan to work on to improve your practice this school year?

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

August's Question of the Month Winner!

Question: What strategies do you use at the beginning of the school year to get to know your students, both personally and academically?

Winning Answer:

"I have my students write themselves a letter at the beginning of the year detailing their hopes, goals, and fears for fifth grade. They tell me their deepest fears and what they hope to accomplish in fifth grade. I save the letters and give them back to my students on the last day of school. They love looking at how their handwriting and spelling has changed and the things they wrote about. I also have their parents write me a letter telling me about their student since no one knows a student more than their parent. Their letters are very insightful!"

– Beth Maloney

Other Noteworthy Answers:

"In class, I like to ask a daily statistical question. I spend time playing outside with students at recess to get to know them personally."

–Gia Coleman

"I let them create a virtual whiteboard where they can pin pictures of themselves, their interests, their accomplishments, anything they're proud of.... and share with other virtual students."

–Jen Brown Algard

"I have used a great tool called Blobs and Lines in my elementary classroom the past two years. I got this from the Cult of Pedagogy blog. Each question helps classrooms get to know one another better, and most importantly shows students we have much more in common with one another than what makes us different. Questions from the 'blob' are like, find people who like the same type of music as you or have the same favorite color. The kids have to group up and it is awesome to see the looks on their faces when they realize how many kids are like them! Statements from the 'lines' part has students line up in some time of order, i.e., by birthday, height, number of siblings, etc. It is a great way to get conversation started and see the organizational and social skills of the group!"

–Sarah Powell



Instructional Advocacy July Spotlight

Leigh Bellville, an Iowa Core Advocate, told us about her instructional advocacy presenting at a conference. Leigh said, "I presented as a keynote during a Secondary Literacy Symposium in Sioux City, IA. The keynote focused on 'Equity in Today's Classrooms' and the breakout session was entitled 'Shifting from Theory to Practice.' The sessions allowed attendees to acquire resources from achievethecore.org designed to empower teachers to provide equitable standards-aligned educational opportunities for all students. The standards strategically allow students to build skills to ensure college and career readiness. Attendees were asked to consider the following question: What is our responsibility as educators in relation to the Shifts of the Common Core? Student interviews were included by graduates of Indianola Community School District who shared the importance of creating opportunities for all students to access complex text and their shared belief that all students can read grade level text and should be provided challenges to ensure growth. The breakout session following the keynote provided an opportunity to continue the conversation regarding the three Shifts of ELA/Literacy. The Shifts provide a frame that describes how these standards raise expectations across multiple areas of students' educational experience including instructional materials, classroom practice, and assessment. Attendees explored a common text through the lens of each of the three Shifts. Attendees engaged with tools to implement these Shifts,

while also viewing samples of Iowa educators testing those resources in the field. Resources were shared to assist in selecting quality texts and tools to support our students." We are super excited to hear about the instructional advocacy work you are doing in Iowa, Leigh!

Core Advocates from around the country are making an impact on educators and students through their instructional advocacy. We love to hear stories about the great work being done by Core Advocates in classrooms, schools, districts, states, and beyond! You can share your stories by filling out the quick [Instructional Advocacy Action Form](#) survey each time you engage in work related to aligned instructional practice, materials, and assessment. Each month in the Core Advocate newsletter, we will be highlighting one of the responses.

Be sure to tell us about your action for a chance to be selected and win a \$25 Amazon gift card, and be identified for other opportunities based on your previous experience.

Share your Instructional Advocacy!

Our Instructional Practice Guides have been Updated

Our [Instructional Practice Guides](#) (IPGs) have been updated! These rubrics, for Math and ELA, feature Core Actions and indicators which describe the most powerful instructional practice moves to support college- and career-ready instruction. The IPG coaching tool is designed to help teachers, coaches, and peers identify evidence of where and when instruction aligned to college- and career-ready standards is taking place.



Math teachers: Give us your feedback on the Coherence Map!

At Student Achievement Partners, feedback from educators helps drive the development and improvement to all of the tools and resources we provide. Currently we're collecting feedback on a math resource, the Coherence Map. If you are a math educator--especially one who has not used the Coherence Map in the past--please take our short survey [here](#). It should only take 3-5 minutes of your time!

Social Media Spotlight

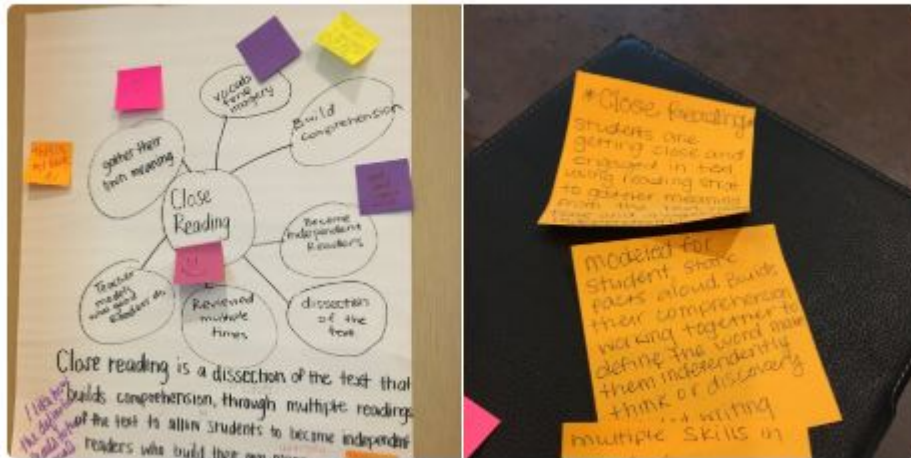
Looking to grow your professional network on Twitter? Follow some of these outstanding educators. Just click the images below to go directly to their Twitter profiles. Don't forget to follow #CoreAdvocates for great conversations and tips.



Alicia Robinson @AliciaR0296 · Aug 2

Learned more about close reading today than I did I college, thank you 🙏

@Mrs_Schimizzi @ashecoach @tmc_f_hbcu and #TQRP2018 #coreadvocates



Kyle Bechtel @KyleBechtel · Aug 4

Can't wait to incorporate some of these math language routines into my classroom this year. Can't believe I didn't know about these before now!

#coreadvocates ell.stanford.edu/sites/default/...



Amy Youngblood @EduOptimus1 · Aug 16

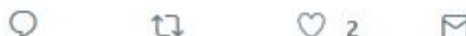
Great tool to share with your K-8 parents #moedchat #coreadvocates

#mathconceptions #elemmathchat



achievethecore.org @achievethecore

Our founding partner Jason Zimba partnered w/ @BeALearningHero on the #ReadinessCheck, a new (free) interactive tool to help parents get a sense of how their child has learned foundational skills needed for the...





Char Shryock @edtechgirl · Aug 16

Many of the resources on Achievethecore.org have been adapted for #ELL Ss. achievethecore.org/page/3161/prev... #coreadvocates #ELLchat



Colorin Colorado @ColorinColorado

Great #backtoschool resource to share w/ administrators & colleagues: A Guide for Engaging #ELL Families -- 20 Strategies for School Leaders | ow.ly/XIDc30lqQek #ELLchat



Shannon Hahne and 2 others liked



Stacy de Boom-Howard @BoomHoward1 · Aug 28

Amazing two days of PD focusing on the Wonders Map from SAP!!! Time spent learning and planning by our elementary teachers to support year 2 implementation. It's going to be a great year!!! #nmusdlearns #coreadvocates @achievethecore



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