Leading the Common Core State Standards
From Common Sense to Common Practice
Mission Impossible??
Start With “Why”...

WHY?
WHY NOW?
Common Core

Rationale for CCSS

- Declining competitiveness with other countries
- High rates of college remediation
- NAEP flat performance
Define College & Career Ready

- Comprehend & evaluate complex texts
- Construct effective arguments
- Convey intricate & multi-faceted information
- Discern a speaker’s key points
- Ask relevant questions
- Demonstrate independence
College & Career Ready

✓ Build strong content knowledge
✓ Respond to the demands of audience, task, purpose, & discipline
✓ Comprehend as well as critique
✓ Value evidence
✓ Use technology & digital media strategically
✓ Understand other perspectives & cultures
Another Important “Why”...

2009 PISA Results for the USA

- Reading 17th
- Math 31st
- Science 23rd (area of emphasis)

OECD, 2011
College Begins in Kindergarten
Common Core State Standards

Summary of the WHY...

50 STATES WITH 50 DIFFERENT SETS OF STANDARDS DOESN'T WORK
The Call to Action...
HOW ?
Help with the How...
Ten Steps to the Common Core

- Identify and engage all stakeholders
- Conduct gap analysis
- Provide professional development
- Visualize entire vertical trajectory
- Promote cross-curricular conversations
Ten Steps to the Common Core continued…

- Create repository of lesson plans and other resources
- Consider all student needs
- Follow PARCC news
- Communicate information in many formats
- Step back and reflect
Rethinking the Writing Process

It is important to share the characteristics of the writing process, but to ultimately let the student decide what works best for him or her.

How do we get there from here?
Growth Mindset

Intelligence can be developed.
Everyone can learn.
Value effort.
Focus
Monitoring and Feedback
Efficacy
A Nation of Educators Working and Learning Together
Ramping up the rigor for ALL students

Where is the starting line?

Where is the finish line for ALL students?
WHAT ?
What Works??

We close the achievement gap by closing the implementation gap.
What will change with your instructional program?

- Close Reading of Text
- Text Complexity
- Argumentation, Informational, & Narrative Writing
- Academic Vocabulary
- Mathematical Practices
ELA/Literacy: Three Shifts

The What…

- Building knowledge through content-rich nonfiction
- Reading, writing, and speaking grounded in evidence from texts
- Regular practice with complex texts and academic language
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# 2011 NAEP Writing Framework

**CCSS ELA, p. 5**

<table>
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Theorist and critic Neil Postman (1997) calls argument the soul of an education because argument forces a writer to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of multiple perspectives...

Students must think critically and deeply, assess the validity of their own thinking, and anticipate counterclaims in opposition to their own assertions.

ELA CCSS, Appendix A, p. 24
Mike Schmoker says simply FOCUS on...

- A common content-rich curriculum
- Good lessons
- Plenty of meaningful literacy activities such as close reading, argumentative writing, and discussion across the curriculum

Schmoker 2011, p. 3
“The Standards ‘insist’ that instruction in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language be a shared responsibility within the school.” CCSS ELA, p.4
Mathematics: Three Shifts

The What...

- Focuses strongly where the standards focus
- Coherence across the grade levels and linkage to major topics
- Rigor pursues conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application
Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
Model with mathematics.
Use appropriate tools strategically.
Attend to precision.
Look for and make use of structure.
Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.
Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

CCSSM, pages 37-38
Six Key Shifts in CCSS

• **Informational Text:**
  • Content-rich
  • 50/50 to 70/30

• **Citing Evidence:**
  • Close reading of texts
  • Well-defended claims

• **Text Complexity:**
  • Reading comprehension
  • Academic vocabulary
Continued...

Focus:
- Strong mathematical foundations and conceptual understanding
- Application with procedural fluency

Coherence:
- Learning progressions
- Domains and clusters

Rigor:
- Flexibility and demand
Implications of These Shifts...

- Rigor of the content knowledge
- Instructional strategies
- Communication with stakeholders
- Professional learning opportunities
- Interim assessments for monitoring and feedback
- Accountability for results
Before You Leave
The Heavy Lifting Is Just Beginning.
See the Light
Or Feel the Heat
Questions and Discussion

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