

ACHIEVE THE CORE

# Core Advocate Newsletter

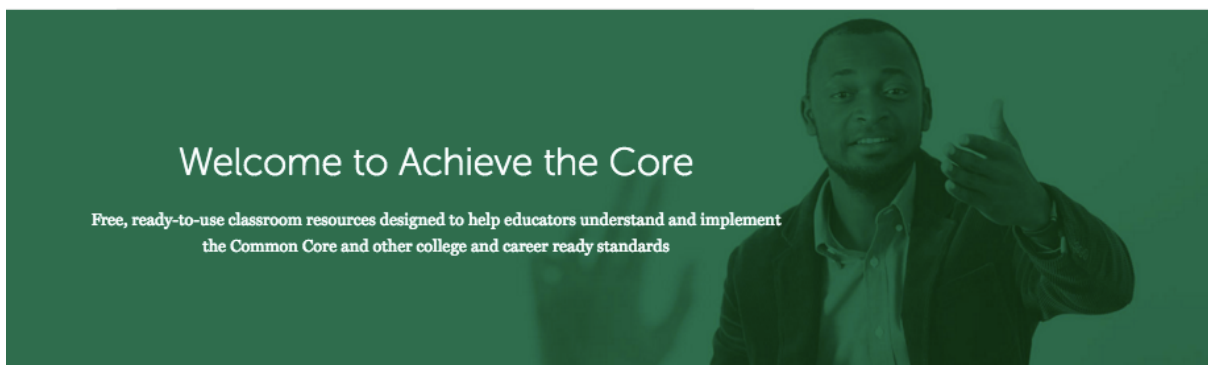
New Tools, Core Advocate Stories and Ways to Get Involved

## Elevating Instructional Advocacy

Student Achievement Partners (SAP) is excited to be hosting our annual Core Advocate conference, *Elevating Instructional Advocacy*, in Denver on May 14-15. Over 300 Core Advocates from across the country will join us for nearly 50 different breakout sessions for ELA, math, assessment, instructional materials, and digital topics. We will have a panel discussion with Sue Pimentel and Jason Zimba, founding partners of SAP and lead writers of the Common Core State Standards, Un-conference sessions suggested and facilitated by attendees, and more of last year's popular Ignite talks. If you're not able to join us this May, be sure to watch your Twitter feed and read all about the sessions and additional opportunities across the Core Advocate network.

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### Achieve the Core receiving rave reviews!

Several educators have commented on the refresh to our website, [Achievethecore.org](http://Achievethecore.org). The new, cleaner format and personalized landing pages make finding and using your favorite SAP resources even easier. One happy user says, "Achieve the Core rocks! Our school uses the resources and materials to develop our teaching practices. The IPGs for Math and ELA have been a eye opener for teachers to realize the Shifts in Common Core. Thank you! Keep up the great work!"

# Core Advocate Question of the Month

Core Advocate Stephanie Barnett is the winner of a \$25 Amazon Gift Card for her answer to last month's question, **What questions do you have or hear about high quality assessments?** Read Stephanie's and other responses, then submit your answer to this month's question. You could be our next winner!

**CCSS WHERE TO FOCUS GRADE 6 MATHEMATICS**

This document shows where students and teachers should focus to meet the expectations of the Standards. Not all content in a given grade is emphasized equally in the Standards. Some clusters require greater emphasis than others based on the depth of the ideas, the time that they take to master, and/or their importance to future mathematics or the demands of college and career readiness. More time in these areas is also necessary for students to meet the Standards for Mathematical Practice.

Students should spend the large majority<sup>1</sup> of their time on the major work of the grade. <sup>1</sup> Supporting work engage students in the major work of the grade.<sup>2,3</sup>

**MAJOR, SUPPORTING, AND ADDITIONAL CLUSTERS FOR GRADE 6**

Emphases are given at the cluster level. Refer to the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics for the specific standards that fall within each cluster.

Key: Major Clusters Supporting Clusters Additional Clusters

- 6.RP.A Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems.
- 6.NS.A Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions.
- 6.NS.B Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples.
- 6.NS.C Apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers.
- 6.EE.A Apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions.
- 6.EE.B Reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities.
- 6.EE.C Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables.

## Major Work of the Grade

I often hear, “What content is most important?” I can proudly answer that question, all content is important! However, we can and should focus on the Major Work of the Grade. Aligning the Major Work of the Grade level with high quality assessment will prepare our students for success.

-Stephanie Barnett



## Balancing aspects of Rigor

I hear, "How do you know if the assessment is a true balance of the aspects of Rigor?" We need to attend to conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application in assessments as well as instruction.

-Erin Chavez

### Assessment Evaluation Tool

#### Grades 3-12 ELA/Literacy

FILE TYPE	DOWNLOADS	FILE SIZE
pdf	5,347	333KB

[View File](#)

[Download](#)

#### Grades K-12 Mathematics

FILE TYPE	DOWNLOADS	FILE SIZE
pdf	5,056	271KB

[View File](#)

[Download](#)

## Analyzing assessment quality

People wonder, "Is there a resource to check the assessment quality like there is for the Textbooks with the Content Module Framework?" And there is! SAP, along with Achieve, the Council of Chief State School Officers, and the Council of Great City Schools, created the **Assessment Evaluation Tool** to evaluate grade- or course-level assessments to the Shifts of CCSS.

-Misha Freeman

**This month's question:  
What makes a Professional Learning Community (PLC) effective?**



## Aligned Instructional Materials

Our conversations about the importance of teacher quality have sometimes overshadowed the importance of the materials used in classrooms. Especially in this moment, when across the country publishers are selling materials that are labelled CCSS-aligned but are often not actually aligned, it's time for us all to pay attention and make sure our students get the high quality materials they deserve. During the May Core Advocate webinar, we will look at some of the rationale for changing the way districts and states have traditionally selected materials, as well as looking at some of the consequences of materials that were not carefully chosen. We will provide our participants with important tools and strategies for making a difference, no matter what role they have in education.

We hope you'll join us on Tuesday, May 24, 2016 from 7:00 - 8:00 PM EDT for **Instructional Materials Make a Difference: Why We Should Spend More Time Choosing and How You Can Play a Role**. Register [here](#) for the webinar, and share the link with your friends and colleagues!

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## Network News

### **State Campaigns Fall 2016:**

Frequent readers of the Core Advocate newsletter have heard about the Core Advocate Instructional Advocacy campaigns that have launched in Kentucky, Washington, Arizona and North Carolina this year. This summer, five states in the eastern region will hold

leadership meetings to kick off their state campaign work for the 2016-17 school year. Look for upcoming information to grow the Core Advocate network and support educators in Connecticut, Washington, DC, Ohio, New Jersey and New York next fall!

### Upcoming Core Advocate Events:

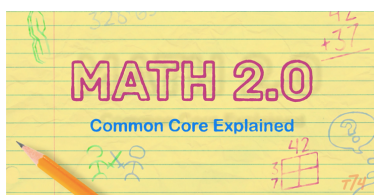
North Carolina Catalyst Meeting: Greensboro, NC, April 23-24, 2016

National Core Advocates Conference, *Elevating Instructional Advocacy*: Denver, CO, May 14-15, 2016

Eastern Region (CT, DC, OH, NJ, NY) Core Advocate Leadership Meeting: Atlantic City, NJ, July, 2016

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## Check it out!



### Common Core Math Video Series

**The 74** created a series of videos titled "Math 2.0: Common Core Explained." This brief, clever clips explain how the math Standards are different, address common misconceptions, and help the viewer understand "why kids today learn math a better way." Take a look [here](#) - you'll want to share them with parents and community members!

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## Core Advocates Speak Up

### There's a Reason I'm a Teacher:

Northern Arizona University recently hosted their 15th annual "There's a Reason I'm a Teacher (TARIAT)" conference. The conference allows teacher candidates the opportunity to engage with and learn from excellent Arizona educators. Core Advocate Angelia Ebner was featured as an Ambassador for Excellence at this year's TARIAT conference. Watch video of Angelia talking about her instructional advocacy [here](#). Congratulations, Angelia!

### Ohio Core Advocates Having Impact:

Two Ohio Core Advocates are making things happen in their state! Tricia Ebner was recently asked to chair the Ohio ELA standards review committee. Ohio captain Char Shryock was recognized with the Oak Tree Award from the Ohio PTA. This award is given to a PTA member who advocates for all students at the state and national level. Congratulations, Tricia and Char!

Share what you're doing!

## Upcoming Opportunities

### Elevating Instructional Advocacy:

We are excited to see many of you in Denver on May 14-15 for our second annual Core Advocates conference. For those who have registered, please be sure to submit your session requests and finalize your travel ASAP! Let us know if you have questions or need assistance by clicking [here](#).

### NCTQ Teacher Advisory Group:

The National Center for Teaching Quality ([NCTQ](#)) is recruiting new members for their Teacher Advisory Group ([TAG](#)). The TAG supports NCTQ's work by providing a source of teacher voice and perspective. You can find out more [here](#), and be sure to apply by April 19.

### Math Conference Session Proposals:

The [California Math Council \(CMC\) South](#) is now accepting proposals for its fall 2016 conference in Palm Springs. This event draws approximately 4000 attendees each year, and SAP's Jason Zimba will be a featured presenter this year. The CMC-South provides a substantially discounted registration rate and some travel support to presenter. Apply [here](#) by May 1.

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## Social Media Spotlight



**Tricia Ebner** @TebnerEbner · Apr 2

These are great ideas for summer--or spring break, too! [#coreadvocates](#)  
[#ohedchat](#)

**OH Teach 4 Qual Ed** @ohteach4qual\_ed

Plan ahead for summer with some great learning ideas from @lisabass1 !  
[tiny.cc/pq0hay](http://tiny.cc/pq0hay)



♥ Melissa Stugart, PhD liked



**Kristie Martorelli** @azstoykristie · Mar 26

Over 100 #teacherleaders are here early on Saturday to dig deeper into standards with #WestValleyITQ #CoreAdvocates



↩ ↻ ♥ 3 ⋮

👤 Amy Spies and 8 others follow



**Arpi Lajinian** @ALajinian · Apr 12

'same story different verses' ... math poetry! Thanks for sharing @jgough #coreadvocates



**Jill Gough** @jgough

Sharing my #doodle notes from @wgmccallum's Achieving Coherence #NCSM16 session. Figure out the story! Know why...

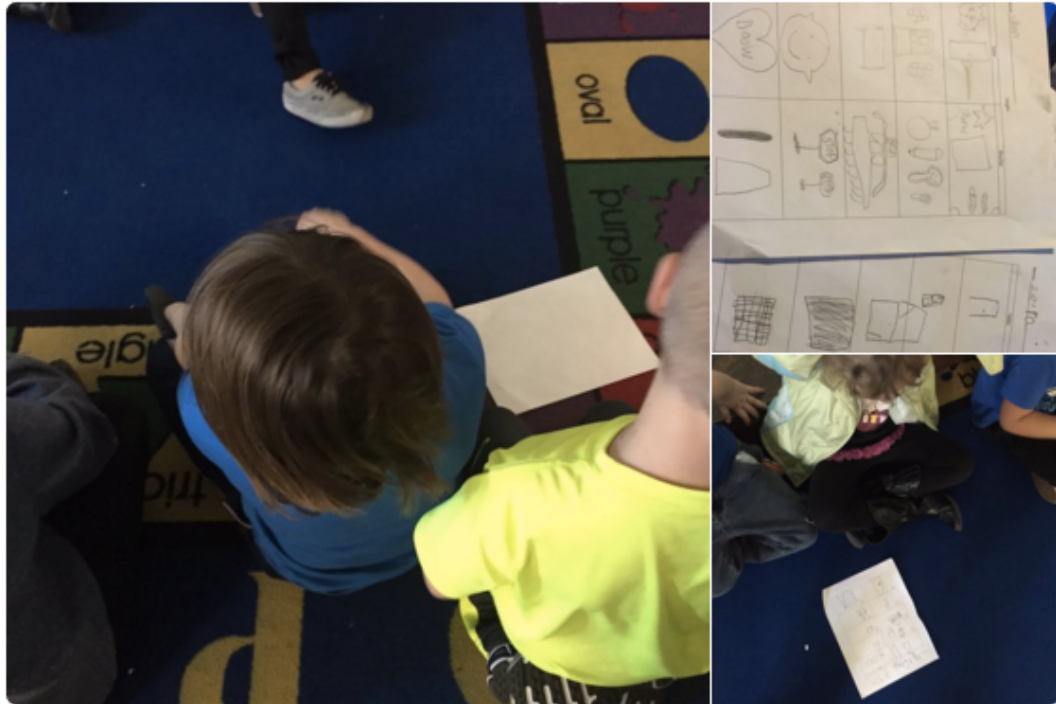
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**Priscilla Keller** @16keller1 · Mar 16

Went on a measurement hunt @dryridgedreams #comparingheight #coreadvocates



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