



## Happy Summer Days!

Welcome to July! We know the work of educators during the summer attending conferences, digging into professional reading, planning for the upcoming school year, and connecting with other educators is in full swing. We also hope you are finding time to relax, recharge, and enjoy time with family and friends! We at Student Achievement Partners are also thinking about how to continue supporting Core Advocates with your work in classrooms, in schools, and with other educators. We hope you'll find some inspiration in this newsletter for planning the upcoming school year and professional learning!

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## Jump to July 2017 Highlights

[In the News: The Case for Teacher Leaders](#)

[School and District Leaders: Plan to Attend Leading the Core in October](#)

[Showcasing Instructional Advocacy](#)

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## Resources

### Classroom Connections

Impact Through Instructional Advocacy:  
Who's Doing the Work?

Core Advocates Tori Filler and Lindsay Tomlinson presented a session at May's Core Advocate convening about a SAP Literacy project they participated in. Wondering about how much work you are

leaving up to your students? So often, teachers engage in well-intentioned practices that take the cognitive load out of the students' hands. This session dug deep into instructional practices focusing on concrete strategies teachers can use to leverage the amount of time students are reading, writing, talking and thinking. Access the session materials [here](#), and be on the lookout for fall Core Advocate webinars about [Who's Doing the Work in Math](#) and [Who's Doing the Work in ELA/Literacy](#).



### Math Fluency Resources from Achieve the Core

K-5 math teachers: If your students need additional practice in order to build their fluency skills, check out this [free collection](#) of short, engaging fluency activities from EngageNY and Illustrative Mathematics. These new resources can be used throughout the year with any textbook. Add them to your lessons to help build skills while having fun! For even more information on fluency, check out last month's Core Advocate Webinar, Fluency Across the Grades, [here](#).

### Planning Book Baskets for the Upcoming School Year?

Summer is the perfect time of year to think and plan for next school year. Why not start with your classroom libraries? If your school doesn't build on the opportunity to engage students' through their topical learning, consider bringing the Book Basket Project to your school. All the [resources](#) from Power Points to handouts are available to use or modify for your needs. You can also mark your calendar for our November Core Advocate webinar on Book Baskets featuring Core Advocates. You can find the registration information [here](#).

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## Your Own Learning

### Webinars

#### Monthly Core Advocate Webinar Series

Join the Field Impact Team and Core Advocates from all over the country on the first Wednesday of each month from 7:00-8:00 p.m. ET for our Core Advocates' Webinar series. July's webinar spotlighted the "What I Use in My Classroom" resources. You can watch the recording and access materials [here](#). In August kick off the new school year learning about state-wide Instructional Advocacy efforts across the country, all led by Core Advocates. You'll hear how three different states are engaging teachers in an ongoing, focused professional learning plan that results in better outcomes for students in math and literacy. Learn about Student Achievement Partners' Network Toolkit, a

framework and set of resources to guide your own Instructional Advocacy efforts in your state, region, district, or school. Hope to see you there!

Register for the August Core Advocate Webinar!

### Leading the Core Principal and Leader Webinar Series

Are you a school- or district-based leader, principal, or assistant-principal supporting and leading college- and career-ready standards-aligned instruction? The Leading the Core webinar series is for you! Join other leaders from around the country on the third Wednesday of every month from 7:00–8:00 p.m. ET to learn about tools, strategies, resources, and best-practices for leading instructional improvement aligned to standards. Register now for the July 19 and August 16 webinars!

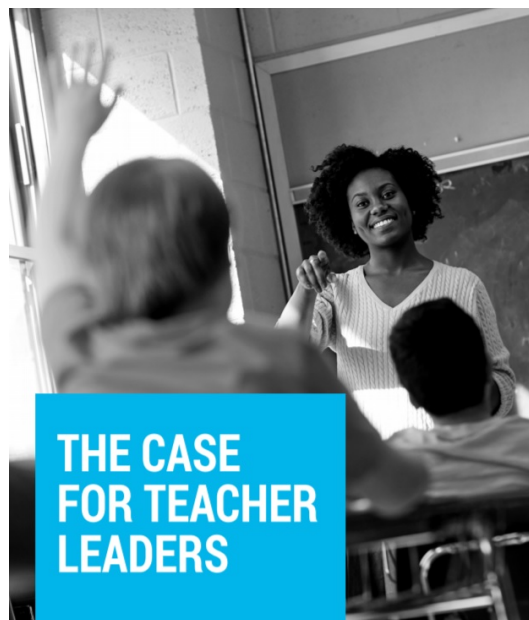
Register for July 19!

Register for August 16!

### In the News

#### The Case for Teacher Leaders: Elevating the Teacher Profession and Sustaining Equity and Excellence

A new [policy brief](#) from Chiefs for Change —an independent nonprofit for district and state chiefs —outlines sustainable teacher leadership systems that could be facilitated under ESSA’s Title II funding. According to [Education Week](#), the brief states that “teachers should be empowered to create and sustain effective education policy; the state should build a culture of innovation (rather than allowing the red tape of bureaucracy to strangle any ideas that teachers have); and teacher leaders should be set up to address a specific challenge, rather than a vague leadership call to action.”



#### Jason (Zimba) Gems!

SAP Founding Partner Jason Zimba recently wrote a [blog post](#) about sequences, “patterns,” and content standard 4.OA.C.5. The post features some student work (courtesy of his daughter) and is titled “1, 1, 1, 3, 5, 5, 7, 9, 9, 9, 13, ...”. If sequences

are a topic you'd like to hear more about, let us know and maybe Jason can write an [Aligned](#) post with more detailed thoughts and advice.

## Bulletin Board

### Get Involved

Kentucky Core Advocates – As you may know, the ELA and Math standards are currently under review in your state. Use this [link for ELA](#) and this [link for math](#) to review the suggested revisions and provide feedback on the new standards by September 15.

Pennsylvania Core Advocates – Are you interested in getting involved with the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)? If so, use this [link to apply](#) to serve on the Pennsylvania Assessment committee.

### Upcoming Events

July 19

Leading the Core webinar

7 p.m. – 8 p.m. (ET)

August 2

Core Advocate Webinar

7 p.m. – 8 p.m. (ET)

August 16

Leading the Core webinar

7 p.m. – 8 p.m. (ET)

October 24–25

Leading the Core Convening

Chicago, IL



### School and District Leaders: Plan to Attend Leading the Core in October!

Although October feels a long way off, we at SAP are already busy planning our third annual principals' convening, Leading the Core. The October 24–25 meeting in Chicago will include opportunities for principals and other school and district leaders to engage with leader-specific content to support college- and career-ready standards and shifts-aligned instruction. Registration opens August 1! Contact [Joanie Funderburk](#) for a flyer to share with school or district leaders!





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## Showcasing Our Network

### Question of the Month

#### This Month

What are you reading over the summer?

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

#### Last Month

Question: What was a success you had during the past school year?

#### Winning Answer:

"We set out to strengthen teacher content knowledge in mathematics. A success we had this year was successfully implementing an Intellectual Preparation Protocol in which teachers systematically analyzed standards, progressions, aspects of Rigor, and aligned tasks. Teachers used this knowledge to deliberately inform instructional decisions. Using the Instructional Practice Guide (Coaching Tool) as a calibrator, we saw an increase in proficiency of instructional decisions and teaching moves as the year progressed."

–Charles Miller

#### Other Noteworthy Answers:

"In my second year of teaching, I was very intentional about creating a positive classroom culture. I wanted to facilitate discussions with my students and I realized that

I couldn't do that if students didn't feel safe or respected. My efforts paid off. I had students this year who loved coming up to the board or the document camera to explain their thinking."

–Carolynn Jimenez

"My teaching partner and I worked really hard to backwards lesson plan after we created a standards-based assessment."

–Christine Hanzlik-Wilcox

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## Showcasing Instructional Advocacy



### Nevada Kicks Off State Campaigns to Support Literacy and Math!

Nevada had over 70 educators come together on June 3–4 in Reno to launch literacy and math Core Advocate campaigns! In literacy, the Core Advocate catalysts are going to work with colleagues in their districts to build their knowledge of best practices with teaching foundation skills in K–2 classrooms. This campaign will address student achievement in light of a Read by Three Nevada initiative. In math, Nevada catalysts are collaborating to build knowledge and skills to recognize, develop and implement quality tasks that promote conceptual understanding. We think these Nevada teacher leaders will do great work around their state! To learn more about the Nevada campaigns, visit the Nevada Core Advocate Network [webpage](#) or [email](#) the Nevada captain.

### California Core Advocates Launch Statewide Literacy and Math Campaigns!

Over 60 California educators spent the weekend together on June 10–11 in Orange



County learning and collaborating to take action on California math and literacy campaigns! Literacy Core Advocate catalysts will work with colleagues in their districts to leverage the speaking and listening standards to help all students, particularly English Learners, access complex texts. Math catalysts will help teachers build their understanding of coherence, so they can address gaps and/or differences in student learning through grade-level content. The California teacher leaders have plans to take action in their schools, districts, and state! To learn more about the California campaigns, visit the California Core Advocate Network [webpage](#) or [email](#) the California captain.



#### Florida Core Advocates Lead at ECET2

Brian Dean, Chris Church, Amy Dempsey, Glenna Sigmon and other Florida Core Advocates presented multiple sessions at Florida's Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teaching and Teachers (ECET2). Literacy and math sessions were presented on Advancing Instructional Practice with the Shifts and on the Instructional Practice Guide.



#### Instructional Advocacy Action Form Spotlight

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! Core Advocates, you can share your stories by filling out the quick Instructional Advocacy Action Form survey each time you engage in advocacy around aligned instructional practice, materials, and assessment! In the newsletter each month, we will be highlighting a response by one of the Core Advocates. Be sure to tell us about your action for a chance be selected and win SAP swag!

During June, Jaimie Fisco presented the "Who's Doing the Work?" session to her colleagues in Connecticut. She reported on the Instructional Advocacy Action Form, "I found it to be a very impactful session with simple strategies outlined in a user friendly way that teachers could implement in their classrooms even late in the year. Teachers were pleased because they saw how it connected to their current practices and was not

something new or different that would take a lot of time to plan or implement. I had reached out to Meredith Liben for the materials that went with the presentation and she was very quick to respond and helpful when planning my presentation." Thank you for sharing your instructional advocacy Jaimie!

Share your Instructional Advocacy Actions!

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## Social Media Spotlight

↻ Clark Cty. Teachers Retweeted



**Nevada Collaboratory** @plpnvc · Jun 3

Math instruction from kindergarten through seventh grade builds up to Algebra. Can you see the connections? @cceainfo @SNRPDP #coreadvocates



**Nick Covington** @CovingtonAHS · Jun 4

@NVCoreAdvocates conference was one of the most rewarding professional experiences of my career! Important & meaningful work! #coreadvocates





LACoreAdvocates @LaCoreAdvocates · Jun 9

Check out @TeachingTrahan session on text dependent questions at Teacher Leader Summit today #coreadvocates





H\_Hailu @hiyahailu · Jun 10

Hearing some great ideas from other math educators/specialists about how many ways kids can approach a problem. #coreadvocates

A-SSE Seeing Dots

Consider the algebraic expressions below:  $(n + 2)^2 - 4$  and  $n^2 + 4n$ .

Use the figures below to explain why the expressions are equivalent.

Visual, -4

Find some ways to algebraically verify the same result.

|       |       |      |
|-------|-------|------|
| $n+2$ | $n+2$ |      |
| $n$   | $n^2$ | $2n$ |
| $2$   | $2n$  | $4$  |

equivalent (11)

$$n^2 + 2n + 2n + 4 - 4$$

$$n^2 + 4n$$

Old FBIL  
New, Punnett Square model

n=1  
 $(1+2)^2 - 4$   
 $3^2 - 4$   
 $9 - 4$   
 $5$

n=2  
 $(2+2)^2 - 4$   
 $4^2 - 4$   
 $16 - 4$   
 $12$

n=1  
 $1^2 + 4(1)$   
 $1 + 4$   
 $5$

n=2  
 $2^2 + 4(2)$   
 $4 + 8$   
 $12$  60

1 2 10

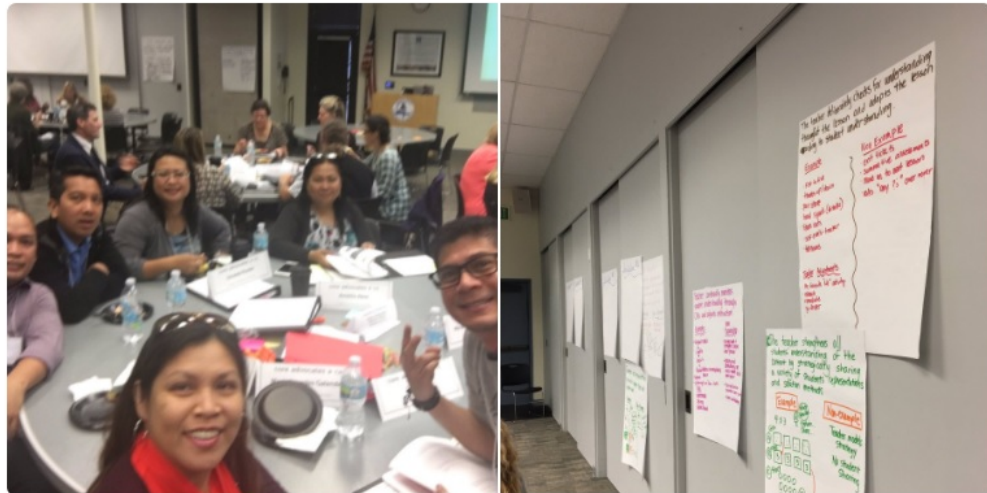
CDE Foundation and 2 others liked



BERNADETTE SALGARINO @salg274 · Jun 11

Day 2 @ca\_coreadvocate convening, excited to engage in planning for actions!

#coreadvocates @CDEfoundation @CADeptEd @achievethecore



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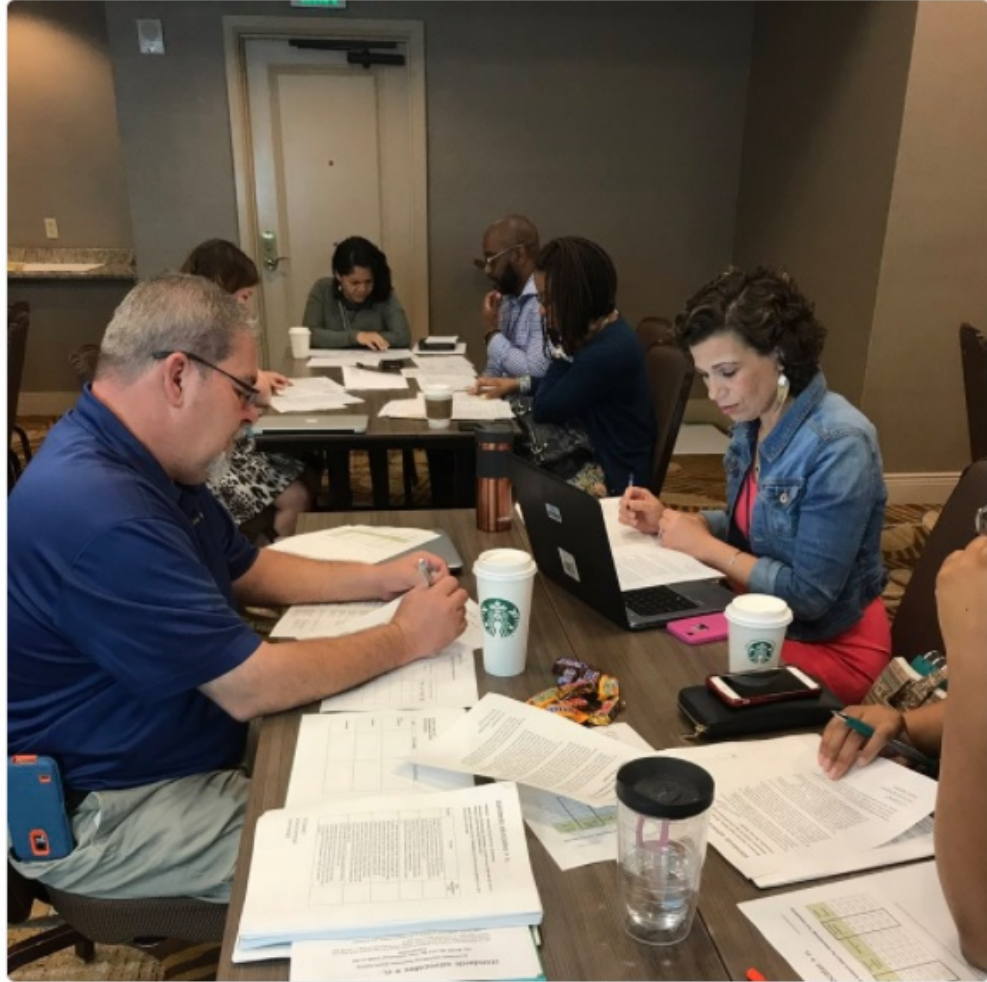




**Amy Dempsey (Hass)** @MrsAmyDempsey · Jun 22

Practicing quantitative and qualitative evaluations on complex texts.

@4flstandards #coreadvocates #ECET2



↻ 4

♥ 14



♥ Brian Dean and 1 other liked



**Kevin Liner** @kevliner · Jun 26

Great seeing fellow #CoreAdvocates captains @TeelDub (CA) @mrsmlergrade1 (WA) doing great work at the #StandardsInstitute @achievethecore



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## ACHIEVE THE CORE

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