



Happy Back to School Season!

Welcome to August! All of us at Student Achievement Partners are excited to cheer on all the teachers, leaders, and students headed back to school this month. It is a time of excitement, nervousness, planning, relationship building, learning, and goal setting. We hope this month's Core Advocate Newsletter will give you ideas, tools, resources, and a little bit of inspiration to kick off the school year. Read on for information about using books baskets, teaching strategies for teaching conceptual understanding, piloting new materials alignment guidance documents, and connecting with other Core Advocates via webinars, social media, and in-person meetings!

Jump to August 2017 Highlights

[New Professional Learning Tool at Achieve the Core!](#)

[In the News: How to Teach Math Conceptually](#)

[Showcasing Instructional Advocacy](#)

Resources

Classroom Connections

Impact Through Instructional Advocacy:
Book Basket Challenge

Student Achievement Partners' Digital Team member Claire Rivero and Core Advocates Madeline Carlock, Bev Davis and Cathy Newton shared information about the Book Basket Challenge at the

May Core Advocates convening in Denver. Are your classroom libraries built with student engagement, motivation, and enthusiasm in mind? Are you achieving these goals? Have you set up your independent reading to support your students' knowledge and vocabulary development? Learn about the experiences Core Advocates had in the Book Basket Challenge and consider how you can optimize your own classroom libraries by checking out the materials from this session! Access the session materials [here](#).

As you are getting ready for the new school year, consider running your own Book Basket Challenge. Challenge the teachers in your school to build students' knowledge and engagement in reading by organizing your classroom libraries by topic. All the resources you need to get started are found [here](#).



New Professional Learning Tool at Achieve the Core!

Achieve the Core has new training modules to help you deepen your understanding of standards-aligned classroom practice. Analyze lesson plans, practice performing observations, review student work samples, and more. The [Instructional Practice Toolkit](#) modules (available for math and ELA) include facilitator guidance, presentation materials, and activities to help educators understand the connection between lesson design, classroom practice, and student work when all are aligned to CCR standards.

Self-Assess Your College- and Career-Ready Standards Implementation

If you lead work in your district around implementing college- and career-ready standards, be sure to take a look at the Council of Great City School's self-assessment tool [Indicators of Success](#). The tool helps guide reflection on all elements of standards implementation from vision crafting and goal setting, to instructional materials and professional development.

Your Own Learning

Webinars

September Core Advocate Webinar

The first Standard for Mathematical Practice requires that students ‘make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.’ All too often well-intentioned teachers use instructional strategies that take the cognitive load away from students and impede their ability to persevere. September’s Core Advocate Webinar will explore classroom practices teachers can use to leverage the amount of time students are talking, thinking, and working on mathematics. Join us on Wednesday, September 6 at 5:00 p.m. ET to learn about *Who’s Doing the Work – Shifting the Lift in Math!*

[Register](#)

August Leading the Core Principal Webinar

Principals and other school and district leaders face unique challenge in the era of college and career ready standards. Student Achievement Partners hosts a monthly webinar designed to address these unique challenges on the third Wednesday of each month, from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET. If you are an educator who supports teachers in improving their classroom instruction, we hope you’ll join us on Wednesday, August 16th to learn about ways to increase teachers’ knowledge and skills to impact student outcomes. Register today, and share the link with other principals and leaders you know.

[Register](#)

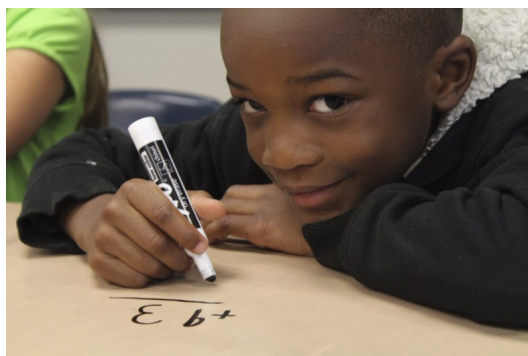
Webinar: Free, College- and Career-Ready Standards-Aligned Curriculum Coming Soon

Education nonprofit Open Up Resources will soon debut two new curricula that have been tailored to align with the standards: a [middle school math curriculum](#) developed by Illustrative Mathematics and a [K-5 language arts curriculum](#) developed by EL Education. Both curricula will be released as Open Educational Resources, so they’ll be freely available for use in schools. To learn more, you can view samples of the math and ELA materials at their [website](#), or attend a [webinar](#).

In the News

How to Teach Math Conceptually

A study conducted on early-career math teachers found some interesting results for all math teachers to contemplate when teaching mathematics for conceptual understanding. First, teachers should use mathematics language purposefully. Second, teachers should support students’ flexible use of visual representations of mathematics concepts. Third, teachers should create classroom norms where student explanations are mathematical



justifications, rather than just naming the procedures they might have used. Finally, using problems with illustrative contexts connected to the real world supports students' understanding. Read more [here!](#)

Bulletin Board

Attend the 3rd Annual Leading the Core Principal Convening!

We are excited to announce that registration is now open for our [3rd Annual Leading the Core principal convening](#), on October 24–25, 2017 in Chicago, IL. We hope that you will attend with a school or district team to collaboratively learn and plan for the important work of Instructional Leadership in the age of college- and career-ready standards. Sessions are designed to address real issues that real principals face, such as “How do I recognize when students are actively engaged in meaningful learning, and not just doing activities?” “How do I know if my school’s instructional materials are aligned to the standards and what do I do if they aren’t?” and “How can I provide content-specific feedback that helps teachers improve their classroom practice and impact student achievement?”

Please note that this year, attendees will be responsible for their own travel arrangements and expenses, including airfare, hotel, ground transportation (on-site parking is provided at no cost), and meals (breakfast and lunch are provided on meeting days at no cost). There is no cost to register, but space is limited and attendees will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. Click [here](#) to register now.

Get Involved

enVision Math 2.0

Hello enVision 2.0 users! SAP is collaborating with districts across the country to develop guidance documents to adapt Pearson’s enVision 2.0 for grades K–5. We will be piloting the guidance documents over the fall 2017 and early winter 2018 to gather user feedback. We would love to hear from you! Are you interested in piloting guidance documents for enVision 2.0? Please complete this [survey](#) to add your name to the list of interested educators and districts. Reach out to [Anna Schattauer Paillé](#) with any questions.

Reading Wonders K–6

Are you a Reading Wonders K–6 user? This Fall, SAP will be piloting the Reading Wonders Material Alignment Project (MAP). These materials are aimed at helping Reading Wonders users streamline this program and elevate instructional practice by providing clear implementation guidance. We are eager for additional teachers, schools or districts to pilot these materials and provide feedback on their use. Training (virtual, or perhaps at a location near you!) is available for the comprehensive Reading Wonders MAP. If you’re a Wonders 2014 or 2017 user who would like to be involved, please complete the Google Form [here!](#)

Nominate a Core Advocate!

Each year the Council of Great City Schools (CGCS) presents the [Queen Smith Award for Commitment to Urban Education](#) to an urban school educator who has made significant contributions to education and to the community. Thank you to Core Advocate Melissa Collins (2015 recipient) for sharing!

Nominations for the 2017 award must be received by August, 11, 2017. CGCS also presents a board member or superintendent with the Green-Garner Award. This award recognizes outstanding contributions in urban education and named in memory of urban school leaders Richard R. Green and Edward Garner. The application deadline is August 31.

Upcoming Events

August 16

Leading the Core Principal Webinar
1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET

September 6

Core Advocate Webinar
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. ET

September 20

Leading the Core Principal Webinar
1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET

October 24–25

Leading the Core National Principal
Convening
Chicago, IL



Showcasing Our Network

Question of the Month

This Month

What is something you plan to work on with your instructional or leadership practice this school year?

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

Last Month

What are you reading over the summer?

Winning Answer: "I am reading *Beyond Infinity: An Expedition to the Outer Limits of Mathematics* by Eugenia Cheng. It's an excellent read for any level math teacher, as it

expands elementary concepts into complex examples from high school and college mathematics in an entertaining, easy-to-read story."

-James Ferguson

Other Noteworthy Answers:

"This summer, I have a stack of books ready to help me grow. I will be reading: "Hacking Literacy," "The Art of Coaching," and "Start. Right. Now.," plus many more. All of these great books will help me grow as a professional and provide me with ways to make my classroom a great place for students."

-Xanthy Karamanos

"I'm reading Elena Aguilar's *The Art of Coaching: Effective Strategies for School Transformation* and *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander."

-J. Kathy Acevedo

"I am reading *Creating Cultures of Thinking* by Ron Ritchhart and also *A School Leader's Guide to Standards-Based Grading* by Tammy Heflebower, Jan K. Hoegh, & Phil Warrick. I highly recommend them."

-Theresa Coyle

"I am reading two absolutely non-math related texts... but loving them both! The memoir "The Facts of a Body"... grim but gripping! The novel "Chemistry"...it was a quick fun read."

-Susan Yagielski

Showcasing Instructional Advocacy



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!

In July, Core Advocate April Pforts, Math Consultant for the Iowa Department of Ed, said, "Currently, we have been having weekly zoom meetings to encourage educators in IA to learn more about the Shifts. From Achieve the Core we've been using Shifts at a Glance, Introduction to the Shifts, and Deep Dive to the Shifts. We have been clicking on the focus and coherence maps so we can learn what is there and how it works. About 25 teachers and instructional coaches are starting to share what they found interesting and how they might use it during the school year. They have moved from Unconscious to Aware, and are now thinking about Implementation." Thank you April, for sharing the great work Iowa educators are engaging in!

Share your Instructional Advocacy Actions!

Social Media Spotlight



Stephanie Barnett @BarnettPCMSMath · Jul 5

Proud to be a part of a large network of amazing educators nationwide!!

[#coreadvocates](#)



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Tiffany Gruen @GruenTiff · Jul 5

Love learning from the [@achievethecore](#) webinar participants on resources/tools to use in the classroom. Great network! [#coreadvocates](#)

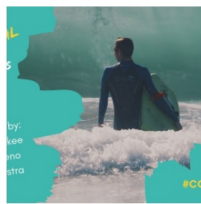


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Melanie Farrell @MelanieCFarrell · Jul 5

Looking forward to checking out what this hashtag [#coreadvocates](#) is all about. Interesting!



Kenneth McKee, NBCT @kennycmckee

Hey PLN, join [@MrDMureno](#), [@KyleHamstra](#), and I for [#coreadvocates](#) slow chat on 7/17-7/21! We're talking summer professional learning!



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♥ April Pforts IDOE liked



Angie Shindelar @ashindelar · Jul 12

Learning @ being a Core Advocate w/ @aprilpfortsiowa & Sandra @achievethecore. Amazing resources and support. #coreadvocates #iowamath



1



5



Ingrid Beaty @ingrid_beaty · Jul 16

If you're an advocate of student achievement become a #coreadvocates



achievethecore.org @achievethecore

Are you a Core Advocate? Invite a friend to join the #CoreAdvocates network today! bit.ly/2tqx1v2



2



5



♥ NaShonda Cooke, NBCT liked



Juandalynn JonesHunt @myartteacher1 · Jul 26

Social networks for educators and education advocates/platforms for public collaborations - like these are essential #NCAEILI #CoreAdvocates



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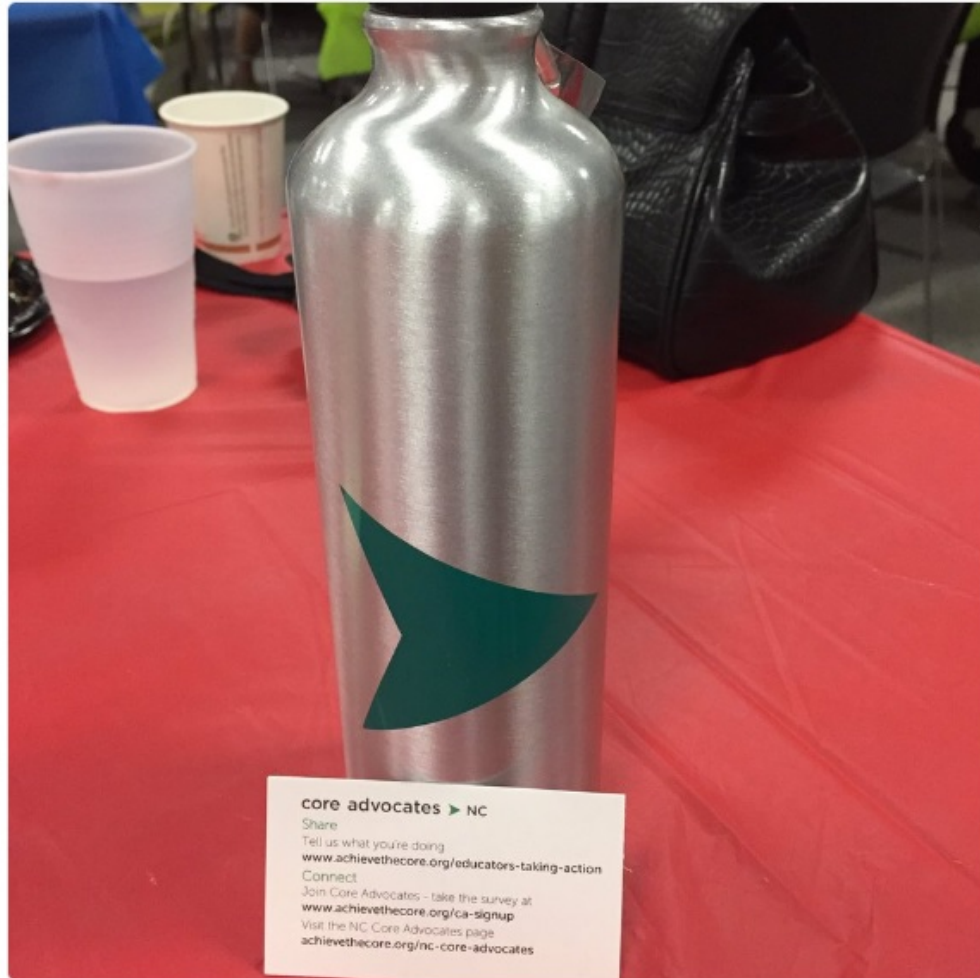
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Erica Starr @starr6_starr · Jul 27

Thank you @NCCoreAdvocates It was so amazing to be part of a great Twitter chat last night! #CoreAdvocates #NCAEIL



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