



We are thankful for Core Advocates!

November is a great month to reflect on the year, and as we think about our year at Student Achievement Partners, we are thankful for the Core Advocates who are impacting students in a positive way every day! We love hearing stories about the instructional advocacy of Core Advocates around materials, assessment, and instruction! Core Advocates recently presented at the 3rd annual Leading the Core convening in Chicago. Core Advocates have written great blog posts on *Aligned*, sharing their experiences and expertise. Core Advocates are also leading and participating in webinars and Twitter chats. We hope this month's newsletter will give you inspiration to continue being instructional advocates in your classrooms and with colleagues for the remainder of the year and beyond!

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Showcasing Our Network

Question of the Month

This Month

What strategies, tools, or resources do you use for formative assessment of student learning in ELA/literacy or math?

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

Last Month

Question: What are your go-to resources/strategies for meeting the needs of diverse learners in your classroom?

Winning Answer:

"Guided practice groups are the best way to reach all of my students! Whether it be math, reading, or word work. I can assess, group kids, and rotate kids through seeing me so I can meet them each where they are. Plus I love meeting at a big table so we have plenty of room to use dry erase markers (on the tables) to complement whatever we're learning. It's also easy to have kids turn and talk about a strategy or their thinking so they have more thinking talk time."

–Nicole Medina

Other Noteworthy Answers:

"If I had to choose one "go-to" resource for meeting the needs of diverse learners, I'd say it's Quizlet.com. This online platform allows me to create a study set of vocabulary, math problems, diagram labels, etc. Then I can assign students to do various activities, depending on their needs: flashcards, different learning activities, tests, and games. There is audio as well as visual support (images) that I can add. I can modify the list for different students, and the students work at their own pace to master the content. And one of the best features is Quizlet Live, where students must work collaboratively in teams (and compete against other teams!) to show mastery of content."

–Cay Freeman

"My go-to resources are the Tasks on youcubed.org and those I find when I search for 'low threshold high ceiling' tasks. These tasks are easy enough for any student and they are motivating. What I love about them is there is a mathematics structure in them that a teacher can encourage and scaffold many students to discover! Merely solving the task presented is worthy mathematics but I have found when I ask a few students to look for patterns or a structure many other students want the challenge as well."

–Janie Merendino

"One of the new resources that I have used this year is Epic Books. This online collection of texts, graphic novels, audio books, and read to me books has captured the attention of my students. Students are able to investigate and read about a variety of topics without distracting others at our traditional library."

–Nicholas Hagemann

"I start by giving students a google survey for them to tell me what they think they need more help with. I find students are much more open to my suggestions when they see that those suggestions are based on the students' own requests. Plus, surveys help me determine where each of my students fall in terms of prior knowledge and prior skills to help me more easily diversify my lessons."

–Susan Hitt

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! 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. 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 to be selected and win SAP swag!

Myrirel von Aspen, a Core Advocate in California, learned about the IPG and Coherence Map at the California Core Advocate meeting. Myrirel said, "I became a part-time coach for my school this year (2 days/week) and I feel very fortunate to have been invited over the summer to become a Core Advocate. The two-day meeting inspired me and provided me with tools that I have been able to use during my work. It also provided me with a support network (particularly Jody Guarino) that has guided me in reading new books, and attending training/conferences that are important for this work. I feel proud that in fewer than 10 days I have had so far as a coach, I made all the arrangements for 14 teachers to attend the CMC South conference, presented the Illustrative Math curriculum to our 6th grade teachers and have helped them along the process by modeling lessons, trained our new teachers on the '5 practices,' ordered materials needed for instruction, and provided other support needed."

Thank you for sharing your instructional advocacy Myrirel! We're glad being a Core Advocate has helped you in your instructional coaching job.

Share your Instructional Advocacy!



Kentucky Leaders are Learning to Lead

Eleven administrators from the Daviess County Public Schools district in Owensboro, Kentucky attended the Leading the Core conference in Chicago recently. Leading the Core focuses on instructional leadership and the unique role of school and district leaders. The conference highlights the tools created by Student Achievement Partners to help make sure all classrooms successfully implement the Shifts required by college- and career-ready standards. This is the third consecutive year that Daviess County Public Schools has been represented at the conference. Eleven principals and all five district instructional leaders have attended over the three years the conference has been offered. The team of leaders are able to collaborate around bringing the learning back to the district and infusing the tools and resources into their work at the district and school level.

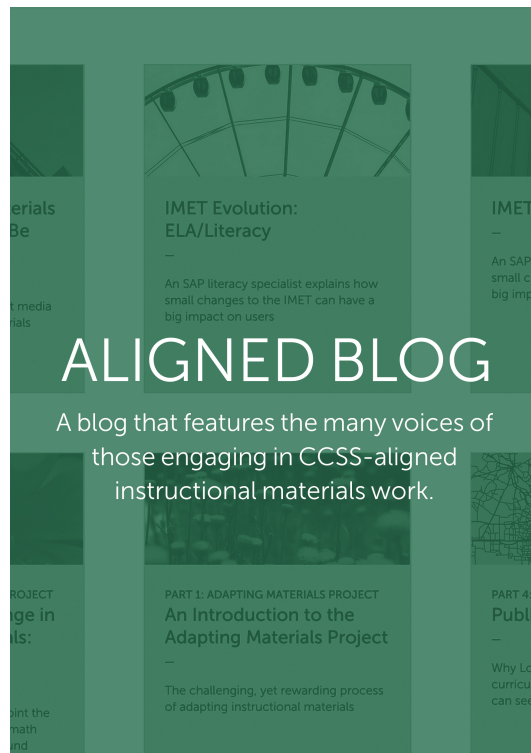
Resources

Classroom Connections

Core Advocate Blog Authors

Have you seen the latest *Aligned* blog posts from Core Advocates? Jeff Crayton wrote about [four best practices for the math classroom](#), Mary Burt described [high-impact strategies for teaching students to write with evidence](#) (her post includes a great cross-disciplinary writing rubric!), and Andrea Raines shared ideas on [how to avoid common pitfalls](#) in ELA instruction.

Do you have an ideas for a blog post related to instructional materials or the intersection between materials and practice? Let us know -- we welcome guest author proposals! Email [Claire Rivero](#).



Text Set Resources

Looking for a quick and easy resource for text sets? ReadWorks' [Article-A-Day](#) offers easy-to-access, printable text-sets designed to help build student knowledge. Check them out at your grade level.

Your Own Learning

Webinars

Monthly Core Advocate Webinar Series

How can you use Achieve the Core resources to address common challenges in the classroom? The Core Advocate webinars in December and January will be all about using Achieve the Core tools and resources in your classrooms! We hope you can join us on December 6 and January 10 from 7:00–8:00 p.m. ET to learn with and from SAP staff and other Core Advocates. Invite your PLC to log on with you and spark conversations about resources available to you to address the Shifts and to tackle common challenges in math and ELA/literacy!

[Register for the December Core Advocate Webinar!](#)

[Register for the January Core Advocate Webinar!](#)

In the News

Research Supporting the Instructional Practice Guide

Learn about the research that underpins the [Instructional Practice Guide](#)! This [memo](#) outlines the research behind the Core Actions and Indicators, how they connect to the Shifts, and how they support content-focused observation. Download it today!



Bulletin Board

Get Involved

English Language Learners

Student Achievement Partners is developing prototypes of Achieve the Core resources featuring teacher guidance and embedded scaffolds to support the use of our resources with English Language Learners. Many Core Advocates have already volunteered to provide feedback on these prototypes. If you have not signed up for this opportunity and would like to preview and provide feedback on these prototypes, please email Claire Rivero at crivero@studentsachieve.net.

What are you #thankful for?

As the holiday season approaches, many of us are pausing to reflect on what we're thankful for, both personally and professionally. As educators, we have much to be grateful for—from students who are always ready to participate in class discussions, to empathetic colleagues, to high-quality free resources. What are you particularly grateful for this year? Share a quick thought [here](#) and we'll feature it on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

feeds to inspire others.

Core Advocate Mini-Course – K-2 Foundational Skills

Let's dig deep into the building blocks of teaching reading—foundational skills with Student Achievement literacy experts David Liben and Carey Swanson! There are some definitive practices that research shows are levers to support teaching our youngest children to read! This course will dive into the content of K-2 foundational skills, with an emphasis on phonological awareness, phonics, and how they connect to early reading. We will also explore instructional guidelines and concrete recommendations for teacher practice. Gather a team of colleagues to join the course with you and [register here](#).

Twitter Chat

On the second Wednesday of each month, [NCTM and TCM](#) (Teaching Children Mathematics) host a lively Twitter discussion with authors and TCM readers about a topic important in our field. Join them on Twitter using #TCMchat at 9:00 p.m. ET to participate in the Twitter chat!

HMH Survey

The publisher Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) is offering an opportunity for educators to provide feedback to help shape their work, including sharing about the challenges you face in the classroom, where you would like to see improvement, and what questions you would you ask your fellow teachers who may be facing different obstacles. Participate in the [survey](#) to make your voice heard!

Job Opportunities

One of Student Achievement Partners' partner organizations, [TNTP](#), is hiring for two positions: [Project Director, Academics](#) and [Site Manager, Academics](#). These would be great opportunities for Core Advocates to consider!

Upcoming Events

December 6
Core Advocate Webinar
7 p.m. – 8 p.m. (ET)

January 10
Core Advocate Webinar
7 p.m. – 8 p.m. (ET)

February 7
Core Advocate Webinar
7 p.m. – 8 p.m. (ET)

May Core Advocate Convening
Location TBD
May 19–20, 2018



Social Media Spotlight



Natalie Franzi @NatalieFranzi · Oct 2

Coherence Card Sort at the SMS Faculty Meeting after solving a @gfletchy 3 Act Problem #allin4theVille @GBoulegeris #coreadvocates



Kristie H Ennis, NBCT @KristieHEnnis · Oct 4

Just hopped on the @achievethecore ELA Webinar! Can't wait to learn from @JoanieFun @salberti & others! #lessteachertalk #coreadvocates





Mia Brower @ReynLiteracy · Oct 4

Who's doing the work? Strategies for increasing engagement and shifting the lift. #coreadvocates

students to engage in the work!



ink-Pair-Share / Turn & Talk
Everybody Writes
oting

late student led discussion
don't do it yourself not to repeat, rephrase or validate
do it's say.

What do you all think about this? Disagree? Add on?

open-ended prompts before jumping in to clarify
don't misconceptions.

What have you read so far?
What could you do next?

olve more student voices in reading an

Independent Reading

Read to yourself and stay at page 5.

Turned the page and circle words if discover the text.

more student voices in reading and re-

multiple student voices
choral read (We all read together)
echo read (Teacher reads, students repeat)
partner or buddy reading




3

8

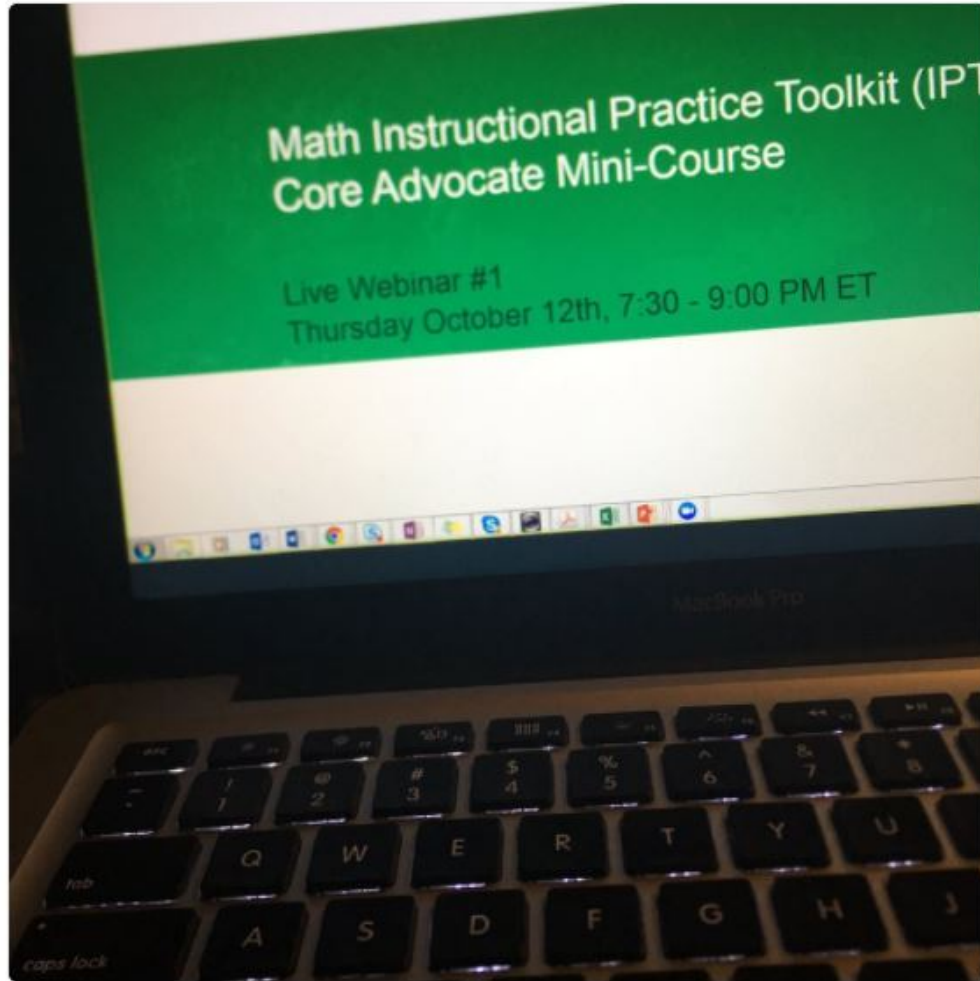


Carole Mullins, NBCT liked



[Jessica Beagle JLMS](#) @Jessiusf · Oct 12

What a great first webinar! #leadlearner #IPG #coreadvocates @achievethecore



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5





Jennifer Jacobs @MrsJacobs79 · Oct 24

Excited to be here and learn at the Leading the Core conference!

#CoreAdvocates #d83spartans



Matthew Rodriguez @newMatthew23 · Oct 24

Chicago New Leaders IN THE HOUSE, engaged with learning to help us shift practice on behalf of students #coreadvocates



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