



Happy Holidays Core Advocates!

Happy Holidays and New Year from all of us at Student Achievement Partners! We know this time of year can be busy with activities, parties, celebrations, and shopping. We hope you are also able to find time for relaxing with family and friends and reflecting on the past year. As we look back over 2017, we are happy to say that working with Core Advocates and seeing how it benefits kids has been one of the best parts of the year! We look forward to continued partnership with you in the year ahead!

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[Core Advocate Webinar](#)

[Opportunities to Get Involved](#)

Showcasing Our Network

Question of the Month

This Month

What New Year's resolution are you going to work on in 2018 for yourself, with your students, or with your colleagues?

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

Last Month

Question: What strategies, tools, or resources do you use to formatively assess students

in ELA/literacy or math?

Winning Answer:

"For reading, I use sticky notes on my door. Literally. I have a big chart paper set up with an outline of 22 sticky notes that are all numbered – after a reading lesson my third graders jot, write, or reflect and post them on the board. I can quickly scan the class to see who I need to work more on to strengthen their thinking, and I can also quickly snap pictures to add to their ClassDojo portfolios for their parents to see."

– Jeremy Thompson

Other Noteworthy Answers:

"I see so many teachers using short, standards-based multiple choice quizzes each week, especially on Fridays. I try to encourage teachers to assess in a more meaningful way. In an effort to do this, I refer to formative assessment as formative tasks. This seems to lead teachers away from the notation that it has to look like an assessment/test. One of my favorite formative tasks is doing reading conferences during independent reading time. Independent reading time is when students read books on their level and practice the skills/strategies they are learning in whole class instruction with grade-level texts. During independent reading time, teachers spend 2–3 minutes asking students standards-based questions to determine their learning of standards. For example, when working on Standard 2, questions like, *tell me what theme or central idea you see emerging in your book, how does that theme develop over the course of the text, what details from the text shape the theme, and provide a summary of your book* help teachers know if a student is able to apply the standard. Teachers track which standards students are able to articulate and can move on to a new one, or intervene and follow up on ones in which students struggle until they get it. It's a great way not only to get to know students on a more personal level, but a more thorough way of finding out what they know."

–Jenni Aberli

"I like to use a program called Plickers. There is some work before you use it the first time, but after that it goes real quick. The students use cards with codes on them. You type questions into the program and the kids hold up the cards to show the answer they choose. It is something different and kids love it."

–Kari Segabart

"We use Math tasks and projects that students have the opportunity to work on independently and in small groups. Students also provide answers to essential questions with posters or Google Slides. Students also have the opportunity to self-reflect on their own learning process and understanding."

–Giavanni Coleman

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 Core Advocate gear!

December Spotlight

Leigh Bellville, an Iowa Core Advocate, shared about the instructional advocacy work she is doing in her state. "Beginning in September, I started a collaboration with the Iowa Department of Education, Student Achievement Partners, and literacy/mathematics leaders in Iowa to launch an Iowa Core Advocate Network. I serve as the ELA content co-lead with Destiny Eldridge. We plan and facilitate learning through monthly webinars to provide a deeper understanding of the Shifts, and where to find and best use standards-aligned resources, tools, and instructional practices in ELA/literacy. Mathematics is running a parallel webinar structure. Therefore, I have been a thinking partner with April Pforts as well because she plans and facilitates monthly webinars relating specifically to math. The Iowa Core Advocate Network is inspired by the Student Achievement Partners Core Advocate network. I created a new Twitter page, [@iacoreadvocates](#), and we created a YouTube Channel to house the webinar videos. In ELA alone, we have over 200 advocates (teachers, coaches, AEA representatives, and administrators) who have signed up to participate in the webinars and share their learning. The content for ELA has been driven by feedback we receive from our advocates and the challenges they have been facing. Teachers and coaches in our IA Core Advocate network are utilizing the IPG and sharing results. I shared with our Core Advocates a sample of the IPG that I utilized during a coaching conversation with a social studies teacher last spring, and then IA Core Advocates were encouraged to use the IPG before the next webinar. I asked an instructional coach and an 8th-grade ELA teacher to practice using the IPG during a coaching conversation and videotaped it to share during the next webinar. We have heard from other Core Advocates that the resources we are sharing are incredibly helpful moving forward."

Thank you for sharing your instructional advocacy Leigh! We love the instructional advocacy happening in Iowa!

Share your Instructional Advocacy!



ALIGNED

Core Advocate *Aligned* Authors!

Have you seen the latest blog posts from Core Advocates on *Aligned*? Don't miss out on the great insights on assessment from your fellow educators.

- [A Five-Course Meal Complete with Strategies for Assessment](#) -- Bryan Drost
- [The Many Positive Uses for Assessment](#) -- Rob Woodworth

Resources

Classroom Connections

Standards–Aligned Writing Resources

Are you working to ensure that your students' writing is connected to reading? Need a set of standards–based checklists to help you evaluate student work? Check out the [student writing checklists](#) offered by the [Vermont Writing Collaborative](#)! You can use this K–12 resource as is or modify it to meet your needs.



Save Favorites on Achieve the Core

Have you made an account on [Achieve the Core](#) yet? Did you know that making an account enables you to save favorite lessons, PD materials, and sessions within our digital tools? During this busy holiday season, you may not have time to dig into everything right away, but you can save things to try in the new year! Once you've made an account (use the sign–up button in the upper right corner), simply click the yellow "Favorite" star on any resource to save it for later.

Your Own Learning

Webinars

Monthly Core Advocate Webinar Series

[Using Achieve the Core Tools to Tackle Common ELA Issues](#)

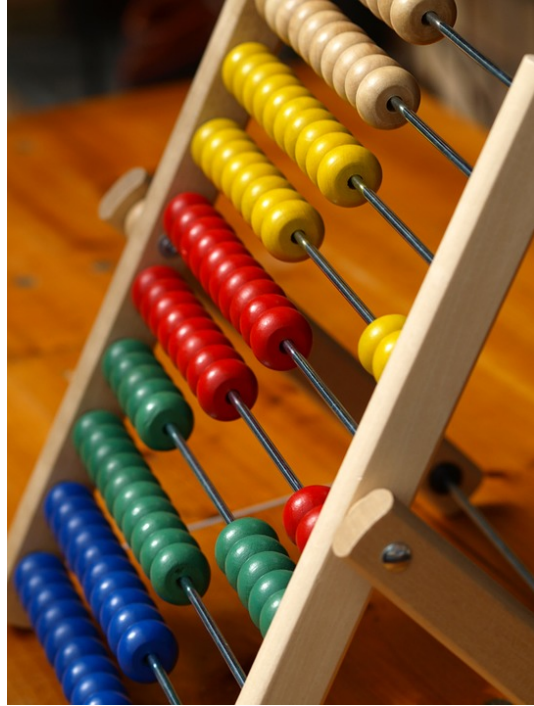
Do you and your colleagues face challenges implementing ELA/literacy standards such as how to determine appropriate text complexity and scaffold complex text for struggling readers, how to design strong, text–dependent questions, how to integrate the ELA standards into your PLC, how to work with imperfect ELA materials, or how to help students build knowledge from text? Gather your colleagues and join us for the January Core Advocate Webinar on Wednesday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m. ET to learn about how you can use Achieve the Core resources to address common challenges in the classroom. This 'Tour de Core', designed for those who are less familiar with Achieve the Core, will introduce participants to resources that address common topics for literacy teachers. For each topic, we will share which resources you can try anytime in your classroom, which help build knowledge and are best for sharing with groups.

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

In the News

Do manipulatives help students learn?

Cognitive scientist Daniel Willingham examines research behind the use of manipulatives in the math classroom. [This article](#) highlights how the use of manipulatives is complicated. Although manipulatives can help children understand complex ideas, their effectiveness is also dependent the nature of the manipulatives and on how teachers encourage their use.



Bulletin Board

Get Involved

[Celebrate your students with #OneWord](#)

The holiday season is a time to celebrate. Let's celebrate the reason we all chose to be educators: our students. Take a second to submit one word that comes to mind when you think of your students. Inspirational, persevering, hardworking, hilarious. There are no wrong answers. Throughout the holiday season we'll be sharing your response on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Pinterest](#) so be sure to watch for yours. You can join the #OneWord celebration by [entering your one word here](#).

[Take the SAP State of Our Classrooms Survey!](#)

Student Achievement Partners is launching the [State of Our Classrooms – Assessment questionnaire](#). We are interested in:

- Learning which interim/benchmark assessments are being used in Core Advocates' schools and/or districts.
- Understanding how Core Advocates know whether their state summative and interim/benchmark assessments are aligned to college and career-ready standards and what resources they use to determine this.
- Determining how Core Advocates use the data they receive from assessments to support college- and career-ready standards-aligned instruction.

We will hold a weekly raffle every Thursday until early January 2018 for questionnaire participants to win Core Advocate promotional materials and \$25 Amazon gift cards. Lend your voice to help us better understand how assessment works in your

school/district.

Tell Us About Your Experiences with Interim Assessments!

Are you interested in interim assessment? At SAP, we are too! We want to hear from you. In January, we will be conducting focus groups to get more information about your experience with interim assessments, both those created by your district and products that your district may choose to purchase. If you would like to participate in these focus groups, please [fill out this short survey](#) by January 2, 2018. Participation in the groups will not take more than 90 minutes of your time. We will reach out to participants after the holidays.

Pilot New SAP Shift 3 Resources

Are you a K–2 teacher who already uses the Read Aloud Project (RAP) lessons in your classrooms? SAP is working on developing resources to support Shift 3, building knowledge, and we would love to have you pilot the resources and provide feedback. Reach out with an email to [Carey Swanson](#) if you are interested!

Upcoming Events

January 10

[Core Advocate Webinar](#)

Using Achieve the Core Tools to Tackle
Common ELA Issues
7 p.m. – 8 p.m. (ET)

February 7

[Core Advocate Webinar](#)

Math Modeling Myths
7 p.m. – 8 p.m. (ET)

May Core Advocate Convening

Location TBD

May 19–20, 2018



Social Media Spotlight



John Fritzky @JohnFritzky · Nov 7

@JZagorski1 - life of a fractions -is sold out! Those of you lucky enough to get a spot are in for a treat. #AMLE2017 #coreadvocates

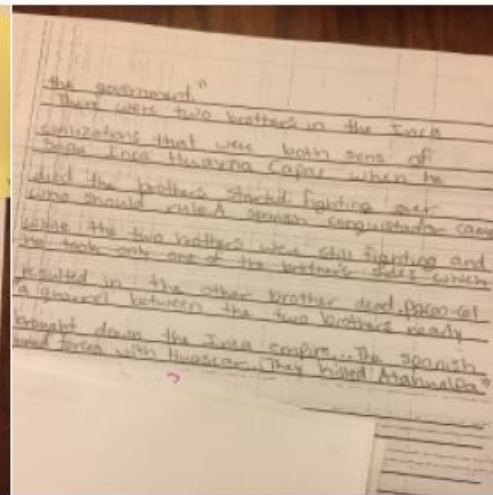
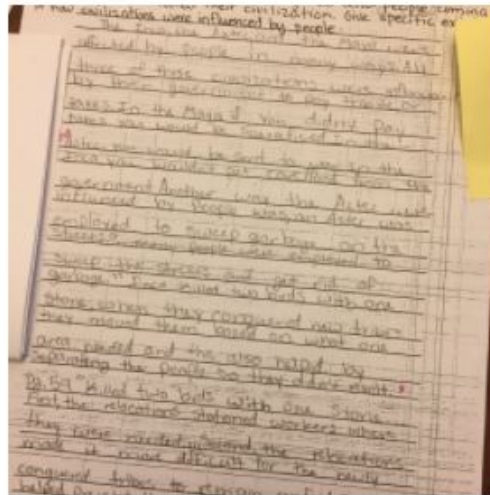


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Katy Scherr @KatyScherr1 · Nov 12

Ss using #coreknowledge text to give evidence to people's influence in Early Am Civ. @AngelaOrrNV #teachstrong #NVCoreAdvocates #coreadvocates #WeAreWCSD

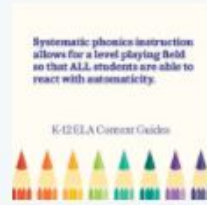


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Donna Wood @wood3rd · Nov 13

Our @NVCoreAdvocates ELA Campaign is focused on supporting access to Complex Text through strong #FoundationalSkills instruction! These @unboundedu content guides are excellent resources for this #workworthdoing ! #coreadvocates #wearewcsd



achievethecore.org @achievethecore

Foundational skills in literacy are KEY. Learn more in these content guides and look for new classroom guidance fro... bit.ly/2zobBCY



Paige Richards @mathinst_Paige · Nov 16

Discussing math standards progressions with #wimathcoach Thanks for the free tools @achievethecore @AstridFossum #coreadvocates





Robin Moore @mooreintomath · Nov 21



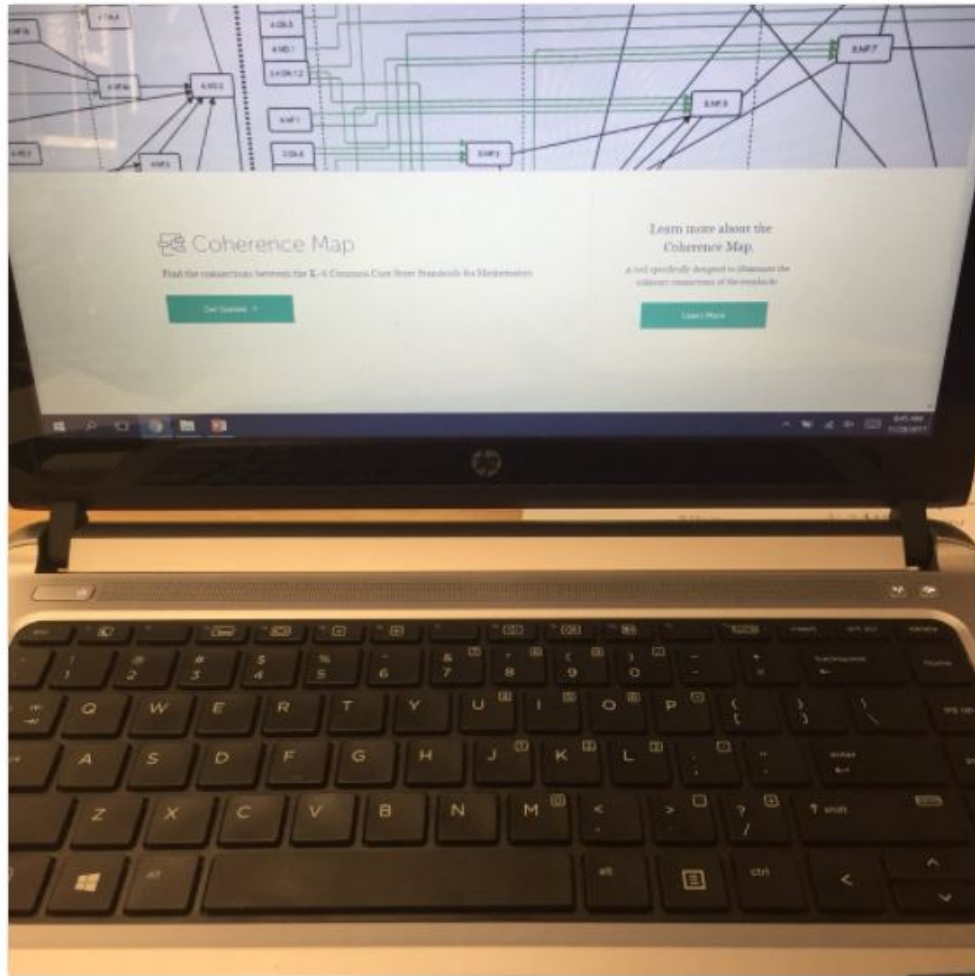
JMS teachers explore the progression of fractions across grade levels in a card sort! @kc_chapman @CTCoreAdvocates #coreadvocates





Todd Rackowitz @TRackowitz · Nov 28

Checking out the Coherence Map on achievethecore.org before tonight's Twitter Chat. 8pm. [#coreAdvocates](#) [#coherence](#) [#mathchat](#) [#CommonCore](#)



ACHIEVE THE CORE

Assembled by Student Achievement Partners
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