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Common Core State Standards - ELA and Mathematics Resources

Parents' Guide to Student Success. This resource from the National PTA was developed in response to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English language arts and mathematics. It includes samples of key items that children should be learning in each grade according to the CCSS, activities that parents can do at home to support their child's learning, methods for helping parents build stronger relationships with their child's teacher, and tips for planning for college and career. Derived from the CCSS, the materials are much more accessible for parents without overwhelming them with information. There is also a link to the actual Common Core State Standards if parents choose to access that source. The Parents' Guide can be accessed [here](#).

Science Resources

Taking Science to School: Learning and Teaching Science in Grades K-8. This resource is an update to the previous round of National Research Council publications that redefines what it means to be proficient in science. It provides key ideas on what it takes for teachers to provide high-quality science instruction and to support students in learning science effectively. It provides a framework for thinking about the core elements of scientific knowledge and practice and provides evidence to support these key elements that ultimately form a foundation for science education in K-8 classrooms. The document can be read online free [here](#); there is a charge for a pdf file download or a hard copy of the 405-page document.

Learning Science in Informal Environments: People, Places, and Pursuits. This National Research Council report examines the potential of non-school settings (walking in the park, watching a sunrise, visiting a science center, zoo, or aquarium as after-school activities or through a local organization's program) for science learning and provides the research base for applying sound educational principals to a variety of informal science education settings. It summarizes key aspects on how to broaden participation in science and supports a better understanding of how learners engage in science, with other learners and with educational materials and tools. The document can be read online free [here](#); there is a charge for a pdf file download or a hard copy of the 352-page document.

eLearning Resources

National Standards for Quality Online Programs. This document is the third in a series of iNACOL's online education standards and addresses what is needed for a quality online program including course design and online teaching. It provides states, districts, and other organizations with a set of quality guidelines for online program leadership, instruction, content, support services and evaluation. The rating scale provides users the ability to assess the quality of the online courses prior to implementation. The document can be accessed [here](#).

Regional SIG Conferences

The Center on Instruction was a co-sponsor of the four regional SIG (School Improvement Grant) conferences held in April and May 2011. The COI PowerPoint presentations and handouts from the April 5-6 Western SIG Conference are available at <http://centeroninstruction.org/western-sig-school-improvement-grant-conference>. The COI presentations and handouts from the April 13-14 Eastern SIG Conference are available at <http://centeroninstruction.org/eastern-sig-school-improvement-grants-conference>.

Midwest SIG Conference. The third conference was held May 18-19 in Chicago, and focused on "Leading Successful High School Turnarounds". All of the COI PowerPoint presentations and handouts from this conference are available for download on the COI website, <http://centeroninstruction.org/midwest-sig-conference>.

COI-Literacy Deputy Director Debby Houston Miller, along with Peggy Simon of Doing What Works (DWW) and Helen Duffy of the National High School Center, presented on *Meeting the Needs of Each High School Student: Adolescent Literacy*.

Dr. Miller also presented *English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects: Implications for High Schools*, in a session "Implementing the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts to Promote College and Career Readiness, with Brad Findell (Mathematics Initiatives Administrator for OH DOE), Zach Foughty (Secondary Mathematics Consultant, IN DOE), and Beth Ratway (Great Lakes East Comprehensive Center).

COI-RTI Deputy Director Christy Murray co-presented a session with Lou Danielson and Jenny Scala of the National RTI Center on *Tiered Interventions and RTI in High Schools: Preliminary "Lessons Learned"*.

COI-ELL Deputy Directory Mabel Rivera served on an expert panel with Diane August (Center for Applied Linguistics), Ana Diaz-Booz (Principal, School of Internal Business, Kearny High School Complex in San Diego, CA), and Libia Gil (National High School Center discussing the challenges for *Addressing the Needs of Adolescent Newcomers*.

Central SIG Conference. The fourth and final SIG Conference was held May 24-25 in Denver, CO, and focused on Rural School Turnaround and Serving Native American Students. All of the COI PowerPoint presentations and handouts from this conference are available for download on the COI website, <http://centeroninstruction.org/central-sig-conference>.

Vicki LaRock (Center on Instruction), Peggy Simon (Doing What Works), and Karen Toavs (ELA Teacher, Williston ND Middle School) presented *Adolescent Literacy Instruction: Putting Research into Practice*.

Sheryl Turner (Center on Instruction), Erick Punswick (Associate Superintendent, Leavenworth KS Public Schools), and Kim Malenoski (NCCC) presented *Optimizing Teaching and Learning of Comprehension in the Elementary Setting*.

COI-Math Director Russell Gersten, along with Angel Zickefoose (Math Coach, Billings MT School District), and Claire Gates (Northwest Comprehensive Center) presented *Response to Intervention as a Tool in School Turnaround: The Situation in Mathematics*.

The Center on Instruction is one of five content centers that support the regional comprehensive centers in providing technical assistance to SEAs and districts/schools in need of improvement. The goal of COI is to supply much of the research-based information, products, guidance, analyses, and knowledge on instruction in reading, mathematics, science, special education, and English language learning that Regional Comprehensive Centers use when working with States.

Please send any suggestions or comments regarding our E-Newsletter to COI-info@rmcres.com. We would love to hear from you! If you've received this newsletter in error, or if you wish to unsubscribe, please email us at COI-info@rmcres.com and write "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

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