



March 2014

# Membership Matters

## Keep the Core, alter the course

### CTA/NEA offers diverse CCSS resources

California educators will be spending much of this year dealing with the implementation of Common Core Standards that put teachers back in control of crafting and tailoring the education of their students. Critical thinking skills can now be part of students' educational foundation, and educators can decide how to best teach them.

While CTA supports the Standards, we do not support the high-stakes testing that some want to bring along with them. CTA supported AB 484 which allows schools flexibility in testing while students and teachers become more familiar with the new Standards and become technologically ready to take the new state assessments.

It is our belief that we cannot test simply for the sake of testing. Student assessments must be thoughtful in their purpose and must include both formative and summative pieces so that learning is assessed throughout the year. This includes educators creating authentic, classroom-based curriculum and assessments along with high quality professional development that is directed by educators.

You'll find a variety of diverse resources and links from CTA and NEA conveniently located on one page — [www.cta.org/ccss](http://www.cta.org/ccss) — on CTA's website to help you with CCSS. Here is a sample:

#### Get Started

- *Common Core State Standards Initiative Official Website* - FAQ, dispelling myths, and a wealth of other information.
- *CCSS Video Series Video* - Variety of video resources from the Hunt Institute.
- *Common Core Standards Toolkit* - Resource from NEA with general background and links to pertinent information about CCSS.
- *Bloom's Revised Taxonomy* - Tool for planning effective instruction.

#### Implementation

- *5 Ways to Implement CCSS Right* - Plans to help assessments be fair to students and understandable for families.
- *Overview: Smarter Balanced Assessments* - How SBAs, aligned with CCSS, go beyond multiple choice to include performance tasks in research, writing and analysis.
- *Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium* - Take a practice SBA test.

#### Teacher-Developed CC Lesson Plans

- NEA and BetterLesson have teamed up to bring together more than 130 outstanding teachers from across the country to share user-friendly and classroom-ready lessons around Common Core.

#### 2013 CTA Summer Institute Media

- Videos on instructional strategies, ensuring English Learner success, K-5 English language arts standards, integration with special education and transitioning to California's new student assessment system.

#### Leader Remarks

- Videos of CTA President Dean Vogel and California State Superintendent of Instruction Tom Torlakson speaking about Common Core.

#### Leadership Planning Guide

- The first edition of the *Leadership Planning Guide California: Common Core State Standards and Assessments Implementation*, developed by CTA, working with a diverse group of other organizations.

#### Spring 2014 Common Core Trainings

Learn more about the CCSS and the SBAs. Through a grant provided by the NEA, this seminar is sponsored by the collective partnership of the CTA, the Department of Education, the Comprehensive Center at WestEd, and the Secondary Literacy Partners.

**Stockton - Saturday, April 5, register now**

**San Luis Obispo - Saturday, May 3, register soon**

Details and registration: [www.cta.org/CCTraining](http://www.cta.org/CCTraining).