
From: CT Core Standards
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 11:03 AM
Subject: CT Systems of Professional Learning Newsletter



Connecticut Systems of Professional Learning for District Coaches

The Connecticut Systems of Professional Learning for Connecticut Core Standards District Coaches kicked off at the beginning of March with the first of five modules of professional development for coaches. By the end of the month, more than 1,000 English Language Arts, Mathematics, Humanities, STEM, and SESS coaches will have met in workshops to begin learning and sharing ways to support Connecticut's educators. The commitment and dedication of the coaches is evident in every session through the rich exchange of ideas and questions as we all learn together.

During the first module, we sought to calibrate a shared understanding of the fundamental shifts the Connecticut Core Standards embody. While many coaches have a deep understanding of these shifts in both the English Language Arts & Literacy and the Mathematics standards, we all agree there is much work to be done to fully implement them in every classroom. Just as learning the scope and sequence for a new teaching assignment has challenged many of us in our careers, the Connecticut Core Standards require us to think purposely and deeply about how to structure learning for our students. The change process is challenging and gradual, but the opportunity to strengthen our professional practice and prepare our students for life after high school is fantastic.

I hope you enjoy this first newsletter about the project. Below you will read about upcoming professional development modules and other resources that will all launch in the coming days and weeks. Additionally, we have included some of the great links and resources shared with us during this month's professional development sessions.

Robb Geier
Project Director, Systems of Professional Learning for
Connecticut Core Standards District Coaches

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Professional Development

Register Soon!

Module 2 registration for ELA & Literacy and Mathematics will be open on Monday March 24th and sessions will begin on Monday April 21st. You can access the RegisterMe system through this URL:

<https://registration.pcgeducation.com>

Here is a preview of the new modules:

In **ELA & Literacy Module 2**, Connecticut District Coaches deepen their understanding of instructional practices aligned with the Connecticut Core Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy (CCS-ELA & Literacy) and the three instructional shifts. They examine exemplary CCS-ELA & Literacy-aligned lesson and unit plans for evidence of close reading, academic language, text-based discussion, and formative assessment. Coaches will dig deeply into close reading, text-dependent questions, and academic language (introduced in Module 1), and design a short text-based lesson that includes these elements. Through reading a research excerpt and viewing video examples, participants will learn about the importance of discussion to support students in comprehending text. Connecticut Core Standards District Coaches will become familiar with the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) through video and interactive activities, and will learn that UDL supports embedded in lesson design will help all students access complex text and achieve at high levels. At the end of the session, they will reflect on Module 2 and plan for sharing with colleagues back in their district or school.

In **Mathematics Module 2**, Connecticut Core Standards Coaches explore the Standards for Mathematical Content and their implications for curriculum and instruction. Participants will become familiar with the structure, language, and intention of the content standards and will analyze problems and lessons, and learn to create tasks that exemplify faithful implementation of the Connecticut Core Standards for Mathematics (CCS-Math). Participants will consider strategies for making necessary changes in what and how mathematics is taught. Using the tools and approaches from the module, participants will plan next steps in their role as a coach as they support colleagues at their school in the implementation of the CCS-Math.

Spotlight on Resources

There are so many great resources available for schools online. Watch for new resource spotlights in each newsletter!

Resources for Nonfiction

1. Harvard University Library - Open Collections Program

<http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu>

Harvard has compiled six subject-specific, web-accessible collections to support teaching and learning around the world. Collections are on a variety of subjects including immigration, women's roles in the US economy, scientific discovery, and epidemics.

2. National Science Digital Library

<http://nsdl.org>

This website provides high quality online educational resources with current emphasis on the sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

3. Google Books

<http://books.google.com/googlebooks/about/>

An enhanced catalogue of global books (with downloads for out-of-copyright books) that you can search for nonfiction titles.

4. American Journeys

<http://www.americanjourneys.org/texts.asp>

American Journeys contains more than 18,000 pages of eyewitness accounts of North American exploration, from the sagas of Vikings in Canada in AD1000 to the diaries of mountain men in the Rockies 800 years later.

5. Biography

www.biography.com

Videos and written biographies of thousands of your favorite stars, famous figures, and notorious personalities. Search people by date, nationality, life events, and what they are best known for.

6. The Reading and Writing Project

<http://readingandwritingproject.com>

A great collection of sites for digital texts and nonfiction journals that are engaging, informative, and challenging.

7. The New York Public Library

<http://www.nypl.org/>

Access 'research' and choose from online databases, such as Amazing Animals of the World, and Historical Newspapers, and a digital archive of historical photographs.

8. Time for Kids

<http://www.timeforkids.com>

Provides accessible digital texts, including videos of current news in science, sports, entertainment, and world events.

9. TED

www.ted.com

A nonprofit organization with videos of ideas worth spreading, perfect for inspiring student written response.

10. American Rhetoric

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/>

Archives of thousands of great American speeches and public communication through the decades; includes video, audio and movie clips.



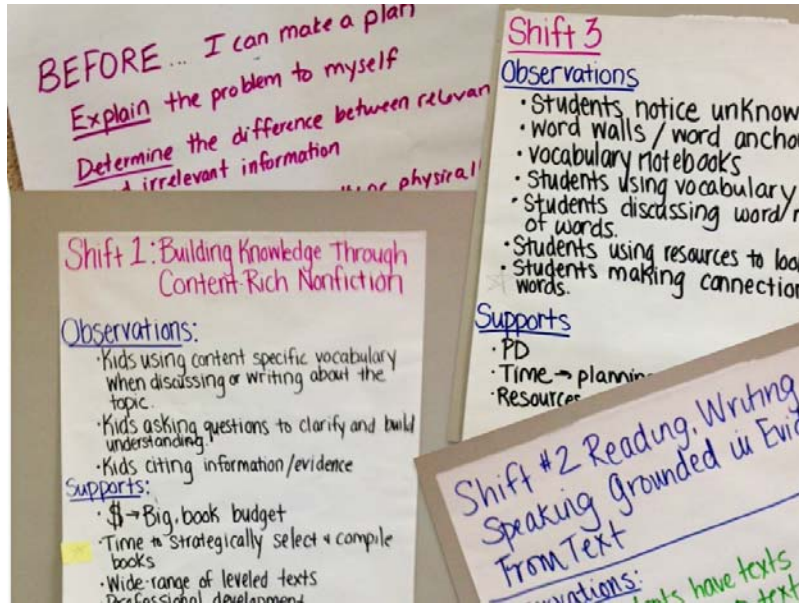
Session Feedback

"The presentation was well thought out and organized. The information presented was useful, I had several "takeaways" that will be shared with staff immediately."

"Excellent activity on identifying vertical progression of the CCS for ELA & Literacy leading to the College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards. Would be very valuable to have colleagues in our district participate in the same activity. The EQulP Rubric will be very helpful to use with curriculum writing teams!"

"I had a strong knowledge base coming into the session, but the workshop was still timely and helpful. It was especially helpful to sit with my colleagues and talk through the instructional shifts and their implications for our district."

Pictures from the Workshops



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