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## State Launches Common Core Website for Educators and Parents

*CTcorestandards.org Provides Vetted Resources for Teachers  
and Useful Information for Parents*

(HARTFORD, CT)—The State Department of Education (SDE) today launched [CTcorestandards.org](http://CTcorestandards.org), a website for Connecticut educators and parents regarding the Common Core State Standards. This online resource is devoted to providing accurate information to foster greater public awareness and concrete supports to aid in the implementation of these new college- and career-ready standards.

"This website provides a variety of vetted and useful resources to teachers, administrators, parents, and community members regarding the Common Core. That said, this website is a work in progress and its contents and features will evolve with input from these key stakeholders," said Commissioner of Education Stefan Pryor. "It's important that we provide the tools that educators and other stakeholders need in order to help our students reach these college- and career-ready standards. This website is just a part of our effort to support teachers and school leaders as they prepare for the Common Core. In sessions convened by regional educational service centers (RESCs) across the state, we're in the process of training over 1,000 school- and district-based coaches who, in turn, will offer professional development to their teaching colleagues regarding the new standards. We're also sponsoring 'community of practice' sessions in which school and district leaders dialogue and learn about the Common Core. And more supports for educators are on the way."

Adopted by the State Board of Education in 2010, these new expectations set the bar for what a student should know and be able to do at each grade level. These fewer, clearer, and higher standards will prepare students to meet the rigors of college and the demands of 21st-century careers.

[CTcorestandards.org](http://CTcorestandards.org) represents one resource among many offered by the state to assist in the successful implementation of the new college- and career-ready standards. The website contains parent-, student- and community-friendly materials that explain the Common Core State Standards. Materials are translated into multiple languages to ensure that the information is accessible to as many families as possible, and the library of translated materials is expected to grow.

Educators have access to resources for professional development and learning, as well as model units, lessons, and standards-aligned classroom materials. The model units and lessons have been vetted and rated by teams of teachers and SDE staff members to ensure that our teachers are provided high-quality materials. All English language arts and mathematics units and lessons are assigned a three, four, or five apples rating, with five apples representing an exemplary curriculum resource. Each unit and lesson is also annotated with a description, cautions, rationale for selection, and list of corresponding standards.

Besides the website, the Department continues to develop district Common Core team leaders and roll out several series of direct trainings for teachers and administrators to support implementation efforts. At the

beginning of the school year, in collaboration with the Connecticut Association of Schools, over 100 school and district leaders began participating in SDE-sponsored communities of practice to work on participant-selected topics relating to the standards. In January, the SDE launched its systems of professional learning, which will provide training for 1,400 K-12 district coaches. Direct training opportunities for teachers will be offered this spring and will continue during the summer.

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