



February 2010

## The Curriculum Feed

Promoting exemplary practices that ensure all learners reach their fullest potential.



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### NCLB Reauthorization a Distant Hope

In his [State of the Union address](#), President Obama held out the hope of overhauling the main law outlining the federal role in public schools. Experts say it would be a heavy lift for the administration to get the job done this year. [NY Times](#)

Dear scott,

We all know that February's Valentine's Day is a time for families and friends to connect, appreciate, and strengthen relationships.

Did you know there are over 8,000 California educators who are members of ASCD, but are NOT members of our California affiliate of ASCD ([CASCD](#))?

Recent ASCD survey data shows that there is confusion and unawareness of the local work of ASCD affiliates. After you read this month's articles by **Robyn Jackson** and **Bruce Oliver** about making connections with students, staff, and administrators, select the link at the bottom of the Curriculum Feed entitled "[Forward Email](#)". This link will allow you to add the names and email address of teachers and administrators who will receive our monthly Curriculum Feed, and it will allow CASCD to make more connections with California educators.

New and continuing individual or institutional memberships will allow CASCD to provide California educators with the most up to date information in the field, and provide professional development events around California.

[Mike Hendricks](#), CASCD President

### Curriculum Snack

Get a sneak-peak into this month's issue of [Educational Leadership](#), "[Meeting students where they are](#)." The lead article, "[Start where your Students are](#)" by **Robyn R. Jackson** discusses classroom currency. "Currency is a medium of exchange. Any behavior that students use to acquire the knowledge and skills important to your class functions as currency. For instance, if we teachers value student engagement, we take time and expend effort to make our lessons interesting to students. In exchange for our efforts, students give us their attention, curiosity, and participation. If students value adult approval, they work hard to abide by classroom rules and do well on assignments. In exchange for their efforts, we show them our approval in the form of praise, special classroom assignments, and



[Jan 28](#)).

## Dr. Gene Carter responds to Obama address

Dr. Gene Carter (ACSA CEO) positions ASCD to support administrations next steps. "We stand ready to work with the president and the Congress on reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary School Act in bringing effective, meaningful, and measurable reforms to every school" ([more ... posted Jan 28](#)).

[Share your comments](#).

## President's Budget

President Obama just released his FY2011 budget which includes a \$3.5 billion increase for education. [Education Office press release](#)

## Mental Health issues on the Rise

Five times as many teens are dealing with anxiety and other mental health issues as youth of the same age studied in the Great Depression era. ([Boston Globe - Jan 11](#)).

Huge Federal **GRANTS** address this need ... deadlines in February:

- [Elementary & Secondary Counseling Program](#)
- [Integration of Schools & Mental Health Systems](#)

## Get an EDGE

ASCD Announces a new professional network for educators. Signup by Feb 12 and receive 2 FREE chapters of the upcoming ASCD book: Education Unbound by [Frederick Hess](#)

## Join Today!

## WestEd Webinars

- [Feb 17](#) - Lessons Learned from Dropout Prevention.
- [Feb 24](#) - Santa Fe MS, Strategies for Success.
- [Mar 24](#) - Differentiated

attention." [Click for Full Article](#)

## Are We Having Fun Yet?

In recent visits to schools, Bruce Oliver from Just Ask Publications, has been impressed by the friendly interactions between teachers and administrators with their students. Of particular note is the laughter and genuine fun the adults are having with children. He explores the research connecting student learning with fun and happiness. [Just Ask - Jan issue](#).

## Apple iPad ... game changer?

Educationally speaking, is the **iPad from Apple** a game changer? [Apple recently released](#) the much touted slate under great fanfare. Combined with [Governor Schwarzenegger's push for digital textbooks](#), this initiative could get some legs. Read [Brian Bridges](#), CLRN Director, [blog on "Phase Two."](#)



But for others, the iPad is a highly innovative, beautifully designed consumer device delivered to a world filled with producers. If classroom teachers should be encouraged to surrender the technology to the students as producers then this device may not be a good match. Get two perspectives: [Tech & Learning - Jan 28](#) | [eSchool News - Jan 26](#)

## Teachers & Community Practice TLC with PLCs

Richard DuFour, famed Professional Learning Community guru, suggests, "We need to let go of the idea that heroic individuals will change school. Instead of looking for superheroes, we need to work collectively to help everyone be successful." Sanger Unified in California moved from "Needs Improvement" in 2004 to celebrating its first Blue Ribbon status ([Edutopia Jan 14](#)).

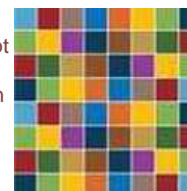
## 100 Web Tools to Enhance your PLC

It is easy to collaborate with your colleagues around you. What about other people in your PLN? Can you collaborate with 50, 100, 1000 people? ([Tech & Learning Jan 5](#)).

## The Whole Child

Schools with high trust levels are [three times more likely to report gains](#) in reading and math scores. As educators, most of us accept that we must earn a degree, a paycheck, a promotion, and even the respect of our colleagues. But do we accept that we must earn the trust of our students? Or do we expect students to enter our classrooms willing and able to trust our good intentions and hard work?

[The Whole Child Blog](#) keeps you connected with the latest research and thinking in shaping a school culture that support the Whole Child. [Subscribe to the RSS](#).



## California Curriculum Nibbles

- **Teacher Pay** in California varies greatly ([Sacramento Bee - Jan 31](#)).
- Commission on Teacher Credentialing reviewed a report on **English Learner Authorizations** ... could have huge implications for California educators ([report released Jan 28](#)).
- 2008-09 **SARC reports** are due this month ... [get the latest info](#).
- CUE, ASCA, and TICAL announce **Leadership 3.0 Symposium**; April 15-17, Santa Clara Marriot. [Yong Zhao](#) keynote ([click here for details](#)).
- **FREE digital workshops** offered through CTAP. [Click here for schedule](#).
- Are **science labs fading** to close the achievement gap ([LA Times Jan 24](#)).
- Projecting **labor demands for Administrators** in California counties ([REL West](#)).

Tools and Strategies!

## RTI Pays Off in California

Educators in the Chula Vista Elementary School District are finding great results in their RTI model to support English Learners ([EdWeek Jan issue](#)).

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- Stay abreast of California's **Race to the Top** ([official website](#)).



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