



Curriculum Feed

SEPTEMBER 2010

From the President's Desk



Best wishes for a great start to a new school year. [California ASCD](#) is an affiliate of international [ASCD](#). Our members include superintendents, principals, teachers, university professors, school board members, college students, as well as state, county and district administrators. With a growing membership of over 2,000 we invite you to engage in our organization. If you aren't already, become a our newest member ([click here](#)).

The mission of California ASCD is to promote exemplary practices to ensure that all learners reach their full potential. In that spirit, I wish you a fantastic school year. Enjoy the Feed!

[Mike Hendricks](#), CASCD President

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Curriculum Snack

Start where your Students are

Enjoy a choice article from the latest issue of [Educational Leadership](#), ASCD's flagship journal. In this article, Robyn R. Jackson talks about the value of classroom currency. She states, "*Any behavior that students use to acquire the knowledge and skills important to your class functions as currency.*" Learn how to leverage this classroom capital for student achievement. [Click here for complete article.](#)



Cutting Edge

ASCD 2010 Elections!

ASCD announces its 2010 Leadership Elections open September 1. [Vote online.](#)

Online Learning in California Schools

An increasing number of students in California are enrolling in online courses and programs as an alternative to brick-and-mortar high schools. Some students turn to online schools because of bullying, medical issues or learning disabilities, while others simply prefer the self-paced curriculum of virtual schools or need to recover credits. [The Bakersfield](#)

California High Schools first to teach Stem Cell Curriculum

[Californian](#).

A number of high schools in the San Francisco Bay area will be the first in the country to teach students a curriculum in stem cell science. The idea behind the curriculum -- developed by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine for all levels of high-school students -- is to both interest students in pursuing careers in the field and to give others basic knowledge to help them evaluate stem cell-research policy, its creators say. "We are not there to force an idea or a belief on anybody. We're allowing students to have a discourse," one researcher said. [San Francisco Chronicle](#)

Obama signs \$26 billion aid package.

Of the \$26 billion aid, \$10 billion is earmarked for education for preventing future teacher layoffs and possibly bringing back teachers who were fired last school year. [Education Week](#).

Recommended Reads

CASCD invites you to read, [Pyramid Response to Intervention](#) by Austin Buffum, Mike Mattos, Chris Weber.

The book drives the key question, "How do we respond when student don't learn?" The authors suggest, "American schools used a **discrepancy model** to determine whether a struggling child would receive additional time and support through special education. The problem with this system, of course, is that no action can take place until there is a discrepancy - until the child has already failed." Their new book shifts the responsibility of the **regular education** program. Forward by Rick DuFour. [Order through Amazon](#).



Curriculum Producers reflect new standards

Major educational publishers are adapting long-standing lines of products to the new set of math & ELA standards. [Details in Education Week](#).

Obama talks to class

President Obama has scheduled an important back-to-school address to students on **September 14**. Compare last year's video speech ... [click here](#).

Quiz Generators for Teachers

Many new online applications make teacher quiz-building a snap. A list is compiled in [Tech & Learning magazine](#).

Digital Snack

Is the Digital Age to blame for Student Plagiarism?

Educators are concerned that the Internet may be contributing to a growing prevalence of plagiarism and a changing view among students about what constitutes authorship. "Now we have a whole generation of students who've grown up with information that just seems to be hanging out there in cyberspace and doesn't seem to have an author," one researcher said. "It's possible to believe this information is just out there for anyone to take." [The New York Times](#).

The Next Generation of Assessments

On September 2, US Secretary of Education to comment on the next generation of assessments that measure a broader range of metrics leading to college and career readiness. [Click here](#).

Back-to-School message from ASCD



Enjoy pearls of wisdom from Dr. Gene Carter, Executive Director of ASCD, in his "[Looking back at Summer](#)" message. In part II, the new ASCD President, Superintendent Sara Shubel, tells educators, "*The start of a new school year offers*

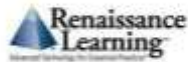
educators the chance to reflect, reorganize and improve. I would urge educators to keep every student central in all of their decisions. Strive to make this the year that you inspire each learner to be more than he or she ever dreamed they could be. Be dedicated, committed and passionate about meeting the needs of the whole child."



California Curriculum Nibbles

- Update on the **latest budget news** from Sacramento [ACSA 8.31](#)

- Catina Hancock, Calavera Hills Middle School, shares **Back-to-School advice** [GetCivic.org](#)
- In **new state law**, teachers get a voice [LA Times 8.26](#).
- "Who's teaching LA kids?" hotly **debated article** [LA Times 8.14](#)
- California **missed cut** in Race to the Top round 2 ... [read how judges scored](#)
- CASCD Council member [Devin Vodicka](#) explains the **power of visuals** [TICAL Blog 8.24](#)
- Twitter exec launched **new California private school** [SF Chronicle 8.1](#)
- Charter school employs **family-style support** for chronic dropouts [AP 8.7](#)



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