



# The Curriculum Feed

**October 2009**

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



## From the President's Desk

Welcome to your October issue of The Curriculum Feed. This monthly publication from [California ASCD](#) features timely educational articles with expanding links and professional development opportunities relevant to California teachers and administrators. I encourage you to visit the links to our sponsors and partners to learn about researched materials and tools that promote exemplary practices at your schools. Also, there is still time to register for the [Ybarra Symposium](#) to be held in Alhambra on October 19th and 20th. Please encourage others to [subscribe to The Curriculum Feed](#) and to support California ASCD through continued membership. Thank you for your support. I wish you a successful and rewarding October in your classrooms, schools, and districts.

[Mike Hendricks](#) | California ASCD President

## Understanding the API & AYP

Interested in how students in your school and district progressed this year? Did the school make its 2009 growth target? Log on to [Ed-Data](#) and find out!

California schools are evaluated based on two different accountability measures: the Academic Performance Index (API), the state's own accountability system, and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), the federal measure, which also includes Program Improvement (PI). Ed-Data now has 2008-09 accountability information for the state, districts, and schools statewide. Three useful articles from Education Data Partnership:

- [Understanding the API](#)
- [APY under NCLB](#)
- [The California STAR program](#)

Comparing Schools? Check out the new site from "[Just for the Kids - CA](#)"

## Quick Links

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## Curriculum Snack

The [ASCD](#) flagship award winning magazing [Education Leadership](#) has gone digital. The October issues focuses on developing school leaders. Snack on one of the lead articles: [Tough Questions for Tough Times](#) by William Parrett and Kathleen Budge.

### Accelerate Learning for EL Students

A California educator who teaches English and social studies to English-language learners recommends several Internet resources that can enhance classroom learning. Some of Larry Ferlazzo's preferred sites include [English Raven](#), a good site for printouts; [EFL Teaching Recipes](#), a site where teachers can share lesson plans; and, [EFL Classroom 2.0](#), a social-networking site for teachers interested in collaborating. Ferlazzo also recommends sites for students. [Teacher Magazine \(free registration\)](#) (9/23) .

### More Bilingual Instruction offered in California

More public and private schools in California are offering students language-immersion education in English and Spanish. The dual-language programs typically alternate instruction between the languages and include students who are native English speakers with those who are fluent in Spanish. One expert said that if done correctly, such programs can greatly improve the English-literacy skills of Spanish-speaking students. [The Oakland Tribune \(Calif.\) \(9/24\)](#)

### Addressing Barriers to Learning

[New ways to thinkg ... Better ways to link](#). Fresh from the UCLA Center for Mental Health in Schools, two articles in their [fall newsletter](#).

- Strengthening Learning Supports as Schools - best practices & innovation.
- Developing a Comprehensive System of Learning Supports.

### 14 Ways Librarians Can Teach Social Media

[Joyce Valenza](#) lays out 14 ideas how librarians can help students safely and productively navigate through the new social media waters. For librarians, and for most other professionals, the game has changed. There is no textbook for new practice, and it is absolutely true that some of us are a little more retooled than others. Nevertheless, there are at least 14 retooled learning strategies that teacher-librarians should be sharing with classroom teachers and learners in the 2009-2010 school year. [Tech & Learning ... learn more](#).

### Core State Standards Available for Comment

The National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) today released the first official public draft of the college- and career-readiness standards in English-language arts and mathematics. These standards define the knowledge and skills students should have to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing, academic college courses and in workforce training programs. Review the standars and offer your comments ... [click here](#).

## Upcoming Event

### INSTRUCTIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Optimizing Classroom Productivity for English Learners  
Dr. Silvia Ybarra & John Hollingsworth  
October 19-20, Almansor Court, Alhambra

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

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### Did you Know?

85% of US kids under 17 have a cell phone?

53% of teens admit to sending hurtful messages.

33% of teens report they have been a victim of cyberbullying.

To help educators promote safety in this digital age, [Web Wise Kids](#) has developed a highly engaging game called: "[It's Your Call](#)." For a limited time you can grab a FREE one-year subscription. Use code WWK692673 with link above.

### Looping Benefits

Psychologists and educators agree that learning is enhanced by long-term connections between teachers and pupils, yet students rarely have the same instructor for more than one school year ... [Edutopia, read more](#).

### Google Books Raise

#### Privacy Fears

FTC Chairman Jon Leibowitz expressed concern about Google's plan to digitize mass quantities of books, saying it "raises serious privacy challenges because of the vast amount of user information that could be collected." ... [read more](#).

### Reducing School Dropout Rates

Join [WestEd's](#)

[Schools Moving Up](#) Webinar series. **October 14, [Reducing School Dropout Rates](#)** with Marlene Darwin & Nikola Filby.

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