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Digital Snack

Checkout a powerful
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Common Core
Standards

Curriculum Feed - April

Dear Educator,

California educators are working harder with fewer resources and most likely with more students than last year. April brings the annual STAR Program to examine student achievement. It's likely that achievement gaps will continue to exist between subgroups of students who are white or Asian, and their peers who are African American or Latino. State Superintendent Jack O'Connell has stated that this gap threatens the future competitiveness of California in this demanding, hypercompetitive global economy.

In May, CASCD will offer a special symposium focused on closing the achievement gap. Led by Dr. Edwin Javius from EDEquity, Inc. participants will learn key principles of awareness, attitudes, action and accountability as a systematic approach to improving student achievement for all students. Event details forthcoming.

On behalf of the CASCD Leadership Council, I applaud all California educators in advance for demonstrating that your passion for your work will outlast the dismal economic environment that impacts our schools and districts.

[Mike Hendricks](#), CASCD President

Stay current on the "[Race to the Top](#)" Initiatives and their implications for California. View the [Common Core State Standards Initiative](#).

i3 Grant Rules

Big money offered through the Investing in Innovation (i3) grant program ... [click for details](#).

Read, Read, Read

Get inspired with "[Gotta Keep Reading](#)" message on Oprah.

[What's it take to create lifelong reading habits?](#) Preview the new book: "[Igniting a Passion for Reading](#)."

The Whole Child

The degree to which members of a school community feel safe, connected, and engaged corresponds to the quality of learning and teaching ... [more](#)

US Schools in Crisis or Learning

Dropouts: Our Ultimate Child Left Behind

Did you know an average of 7,200 students [drop out each school day](#). The overall impact on individual dropouts is summarized by education writer Anne Nelson who writes, "Dropping out of high school today is to your societal health what smoking is to your physical health - an indicator of a host of poor outcomes to follow, from low lifetime earnings to high incarceration rates to a high likelihood that your children will drop out of high school and start the cycle anew." ([More from Just Ask Publications](#)).

Textbooks are Finished

There was a time when textbooks added value to K12. In the old days, (1) content was truly scarce, and age-appropriate content was scarcer still; (2) teachers came to rely on the instructional resources such as the lesson plans and assignments that accompanied textbooks; and (3) students spent a significant portion of the school day, upwards of 50 percent, with their noses in textbooks, absorbing content. ([more from District Administration](#)).

Textbooks going Digital Ready or Not

The survey asked educators questions about social networking, digital textbooks and district spending on interactive learning methods. Sixty-five percent said they believe textbooks are going away. Just 19 percent said their school or district is "totally prepared" for the digital age ... [more](#)

Curriculum Snack - Reimagining School

This month's [Educational Leadership](#) clearly frames the message to "reimagine school." If there has ever been a time to improve schools, the time is now, when both school insiders and school outsiders are calling for change. The unprecedented flow of funding for innovation makes it especially advantageous for schools and educators to identify and implement good ideas. Parents, policymakers, media pundits, and colleagues are calling for educators to be audacious, do something different, and make a difference. [Listen to Marge Scherer's podcast](#).



Meet Generation Z

They'd rather text than talk. They prefer to communicate

the Way?

In a Race to the Top, is the U.S. education system going in the right direction? ASCD author and Michigan State University education professor Yong Zhao argued this morning at ASCD's Annual Conference, that American education is by no means perfect. But there are some strengths that Americans should focus on to help their schools thrive ... [ASCD SmartBrief](#)

Conference Notes:
thoughts on
teaching the next
generation

Can you be a Rhodes Scholar and not read books? Did growing up digital produce the dumbest generation? Are screenagers multitasking, or are they better multi-taskers? Enjoy reflections from Don Tapscott's keynote at our ASCD Conference ... [more](#).

online - often with friends they have never met. They don't spend much time outdoors unless adults organize activities for them. They can't imagine life without cell phones. They have never known a world without technology or terrorism or Columbine. They prefer computers to books and want instant results. They are growing up in an economic depression and are under tremendous pressure to succeed. Mostly they are growing up fast, and exhibiting behavior far beyond their years. Sound familiar? They are Generation Z - the students at your school ([more ... California Educator](#)).

Common Core State Standards Initiative

As part of the **Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI)**, [the draft K-12 standards are now available for public comment](#). These draft standards, developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts, seek to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare our children for college and the workforce.

CCSSI invites your professional feedback. Take a moment to comment ... [click here](#).

ESEA Blueprint Continues Emphasis on Tests

Continuing the call to school reform, President Obama released his new "[Blueprint](#)" for reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)... [more](#)

California Curriculum Nibbles

- Math Wars over national standards may erupt again in California ... [Mercury News](#)
- "Persistently Lowest Achieving" ... race to the top begins ... [Mercury News](#)
- California districts send over 22,000 pink slips ... [Bloomberg News](#)
- Task force set to recommend changes to LA Teacher Evaluations ... [LA Times](#)
- FREE webinar April 7: Provide Free Summer Meals to California Kids ... [register here](#)
- EdSource Forum Videos: California at a Crossroads ... Crisis & Opportunity ... [click here](#)
- 2009 NAEP results for California show no significant change ... [comments Jack O'Connell](#)
- [LEAD 3.0](#) Leadership & Technology Conference April 15-17. [New iPad workshop announced.](#)
- California Librarians are key to student literacy; "Saving the Google Student" ... [LA Times](#)
- California Superintendent, Bob Price, extols the high value video to enhance professional development experiences... [TICAL blog](#)
- Model School Library Standards for California schools set for CBE adoption ... [draft standards](#)
- [Taking Center Stage - ACT II](#) provides middle school educators with valuable online resources
- Long Beach Unified is successful with "college readiness" program ... [Telegraph News](#)



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