



# Curriculum Feed

April

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**Another Powerful  
CASCD Workshop**

*"Leadership in the  
Digital Age!"*

[May 18, San Jose](#)  
[May 24, Anaheim](#)

Dear Scott,

I hope those of you who attended last weekend's ASCD Annual Conference in San Francisco found the event to be a great professional development experience. I'd like to thank the members of the California ASCD Board of Directors and our sponsors for hosting our welcome booth at the Conference. The Directors met many of our members and Californians who are members of ASCD. If you weren't able to attend, I'd invite you to explore the [CASCD website](#) to learn more about the organization.

On May 18th (San Jose) and 24th (Anaheim), California ASCD will be hosting a professional development workshop titled, "Leading, Learning, and Producing-Tools and Knowledge in the Digital Age." The workshops are presented by Jason Borgen, The Educational Technology Coordinator at the Santa Cruz COE, and Devin Vodicka, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction from the Carlsbad USD. The interactive workshop engages participants with the challenges of leadership in a digital age. [Register online](#). We look forward to seeing you there.

[Mike Hendricks](#), CASCD President

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## FREE Webinars:

April 6 @ 10:30 WestEd  
[Enhancing Infant &  
Toddler Care](#)

April 7 @ 10:30 WestEd  
[Making Every Minute  
Count](#)

April 20 @ 10:30 WestEd  
[Teach & Assess 21st  
Century Skills](#)

*"Schools are just teaching the test" - Obama*

As we approach another testing season, President Obama expressed his concern that students are testing too much. Obama said, "*students should take fewer standardized tests and school performance should be measured in other ways than just exam results. Too much testing makes education boring for kids ... Too often what we have been doing is using these tests to punish students or to, in some cases, punish schools.*" [AP Article](#).

The week previous, Obama urged Congress to send him a new education law by fall that replaces the ill formed punitive system we currently use that will soon label 4 out of 5 schools as failing. [AP Article](#).

## Curriculum Snack ... High Stakes Testing Narrows the Curriculum

[Jane L. David](#), a director of the Bay Area Research Group in Palo Alto, makes the case that our current assessment culture chokes a rich learning experience.

*"The current rationale for standards-based reform goes like this: If standards are demanding and tests accurately measure achievement of those standards, then curriculum and instruction will become richer and more rigorous. By attaching serious consequences to schools that fail to increase test scores, U.S. policymakers believe that educators will be motivated to pay attention to what is on the tests. Educators do pay attention to what is on the tests-but the consequences are not necessarily the intended ones." ... [full article](#).*



## Student-Centered Learning: How & Why

[Paul Bogdan](#) was once an old-fashioned lecturing teacher centered secondary math teacher who left teaching for 14 years to build computer systems. He has come back and is reborn as a student-centered teacher trying to make a difference and trying to figure out what works in today's classroom.

[Edutopia Magazine](#) blogger Betty Ray how Bogdan transformed his teaching world ... [Complete post](#).

Go further into Bogdan's world by creating a Project-Based Learning (PBL) environment. Log int Edutopia and get the [Classroom Guide: Top Ten Tips for Assessing PBL](#).

April 26 @ 10:30 WestEd  
[Defining Principal Effectiveness](#)

April 28 @ 10:30 WestEd  
[Expanding Learning Time](#)

April 5 @ 8:00 TICAL  
[Technology a click away on TICAL Website](#)

### Your VOICE!

Value of each Voice, a powerful ASCD campaign. [Click to Bring your Voice.](#)

### Promote Whole Child

Become an advocate for the whole child. Be a champion for ALL kids to reach their fullest potential. Plug into ASCD's [Whole Child Initiative](#).

### Disrupting the Educational Paradigm

The [Journal of Technology Learning and Assessment](#) examines 4 research studies on the impact of 1:1 implementations on teaching and learning ... [details](#).

### Top 10 Web Tools for Teachers

Dave Saltman in the [The Harvard Education Letter](#) shares 10 powerful Web tools that improve classroom management and enrich communication ... [details](#).

### Skype in the Classroom

Skype recently announced a portal of resources aimed a connecting classrooms around the world. [Check it out](#).

### Classroom Displays: Keep the focus on

## Recommended Reads

[Linda Darling-Hammond](#), nationally renowned education researcher and policy advisor, contends in her new book, [The Flat World and Education](#), that improving America's performance in the global economy is closely tied to closing the minority-majority achievement gap at home.



*"Today in the United States only 1 in 10 low-income kindergarteners goes on to graduate from college. At a time when education matters more than ever, the U.S. high school graduation rate has dropped from first in the world to the bottom half of rankings for comparable nations."*

Hammond focuses on the successes of effective school systems in the U.S. and abroad to develop clear and coherent policies that can be used to create high-quality, equitable schools.

Recommend a good read to your colleagues: [click](#)

### Student Week

Classroom walls should engage students and support learning. ASCD offers some fantastic tips for making better displays ... [click to learn more.](#)

## Digital Snack: "To iPad or Not to iPad?"

This question sparks a sharp debate among teachers and school check-writers. [PCWorld](#) took an early click at the question with a discussion on criteria such as: Surfing the Web, Getting Work Done, Portability, Audio & Visual ... [It's a Close Call](#). A month later as the economy remained soft, price became a deciding factor ... [The Battle Continues](#). The latest volley in Laptop Magazine set 10 criteria to compare the two devices. In this latest round, "As netbooks have improved with larger screens, more comfortable keyboards, and longer battery life, their \$300-400 inclusive price is an edge." [Complete Article](#) Not so fast ... given the need to scale transformative learning experiences to the common child, [Tech & Learning](#) explains [why the iPad is different](#).

iPad ideas to consider:

- [10 resource-rich Websites supporting iPads in Education](#) by Michael Gorman
- [iPad apps for children with special needs](#) by Vicki Windman
- [iPads as Assistive Technology in Education](#) by Eric Lawson

## Curriculum Nibbles

- California ASCD presents 2011 **Helen Heffernan Award to Sue Stickel** ([details](#))
- [4th Annual Leadership Symposium](#) sponsored by [ACSA](#), [CUE](#), [TICAL](#)
- Latest news on **California Education Budget** ([ACSA](#))
- The EdSource Forum on **California Ed. Policy** presentations posted online ([EdSource](#))
- Overview of **California's Common Core** ([New EdSource Video Lecture](#))
- **Next Generation** Learning & Technology ([New EdSource Video Lecture](#))
- "Value Added" Teacher Evaluations in LA ([LA Times](#))
- **Parents/Student rally** to save Aliso Elementary, Saddleback Valley USD ([OC Register](#))
- State law could **delay new textbooks** until 2019 ([California Watch](#))
- Los Altos pilots technology-based math program ([SJ Mercury](#))
- "Worser and Worser" California **budget cuts erode quality** ([Silicon Valley Foundation](#))

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