



## Curriculum Feed | February

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### NEW WORKSHOPS COMING TO TOWN



#### Maximize Learning with Common Core & 21st Century Skills

presented by Dr. Sue Beers  
in partnership with Tulare COE

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PM

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#### BUDGET MATTERS

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## CURRICULUM SNACK: Four Takes on Tough Times

Michael A. Rebell, Allan Odden, Anthony Rolle and James W. Guthrie hold differing views on coping with tough times.

In this theme issue of Educational Leadership on "The Resourceful School," we acknowledge the hardships that schools are experiencing both in the United States and in other nations across the world in the wake of a global financial crisis. To explore the effects of this economic crisis on schools, we decided to talk with four experts in the fields of education policy and finance. In phone conversations and through e-mail, we asked them to describe the fiscal situation and suggest ways that schools might not only survive these challenging times, but also, perhaps, find ways to thrive.

You may agree or disagree with our commentators' suggestions. Tough times force us to confront difficult issues that are bound to spark debate.

So here's what the experts had to say about where we're headed and what we must do ([complete article](#)).

Enjoy reading the most recent edition of [Educational Leadership](#), the flagship journal of ASCD. [Click here for full article](#).



## Getting to the Core

Each month, [CASCD](#) will feature important articles and updates surrounding the implementation of the new California Common Core. The series is titled: Getting to the Core.

On June 9, 2011 California joined the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) as a governing state. The SBAC is a national consortium of 29 states that have been working collaboratively to develop a student assessment system aligned to a common core of academic content standards. Of those, California is one of 19 governing states, which allows decision-making participation. The remaining 10 are advisory states. The SBAC focus is on assessing students annually in grades three through eight in English-language arts and mathematics and once in grades ten through twelve under current federal requirements.

- Frequently Asked Questions ([click here](#))
- Resources & Announcements ([click here](#))

friends at [ACSA](#) ... [click here](#).

### FREE Webinars

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**Feb 8 @ 12:00**  
"What Neuro-Logical emotional interventions promote student success."([ASCD](#))

**Feb 8 @ 10:30**  
Making sense of Science ([WestEd](#))

**Feb 15 @ 12:00**  
Designing Learning Activities in a Standards-Based System ([ASCD](#))

**Feb 15 @ 10:30**  
Implementing a Seal of Biliteracy ([WestEd](#))

**Feb 29 @ 10:30**  
Common Core Standards ([WestEd](#))

**Feb 29 @ 6:00 AM**  
Integrating Technology into Instruction ([McREL](#))

### The Whole Child!

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Learn the 3 C's of assessment: Comprehensive, Continuous, Coherent. Listen to a 2-part podcast series on assessment that factors in the whole child ([click here](#)).

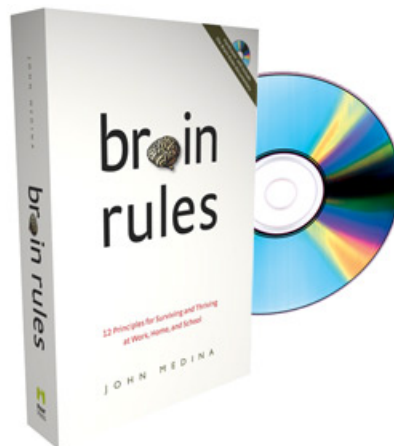
- Subscribe to timely updates from the SBAC ([click here](#))
- Implementation Video Series by Hunt Institute ([click here](#))

The popular series of **FREE Webinars** produced by [ASCD](#) called "**Get to the Core**" is now Archived for your viewing ([click for details](#)).

- [Common Core 101 by John Kendall](#)
- [Policy & Implementation by David Griffith & Efrain Mercad](#)
- [The Common Core of a Whole Child by Molly McCloskey](#)

## RECOMMENDED READS: Lost & Found

Neuroscientist Dr. John Medina provides educators with 10 important rules that apply to brain function and learning. He stresses that "*age is not something that matters unless you are cheese.*" Brain growth and learning is for a lifetime.



Medina advocates for a classroom environment that supports the brain's natural way of learning. "*Though we have been stuffing them into classrooms for decades, our brains actually were built to survive in jungles and grasslands, which we have not outgrown. If you wanted to create an educational environment that was directly **opposed** to what the brain was good at doing, you probably would design something like a classroom.*"

Medina provides a website filled with videos, research, and practical ideas to support higher brain activity (<http://www.brainrules.net>).

CASCD invites you to [recommend a good read](#) to your colleagues ... we just might publish your review in our next Curriculum Feed ... [click here to submit a summary](#).

## California Girls encouraged to pursue STEM studies

### No More Printing!

Teachers have discovered a powerful cloud-computing service called [DropBox](#).

This FREE service supports all computers, smart phones, and tablets. It allows teachers to store and access files from any computer or Internet-connected device. It allows users to share folders and to create folders that can serve as an online assignment drop-box ([click here](#)).

### ASCD Responds to the State of the Union speech

"The president wants to offer schools a deal..." ([click here for response](#)).

### Partners in Learning Network

Microsoft offers educators with a wealth of free tutorials and lessons to support classroom instruction... FREE. [Join today](#).

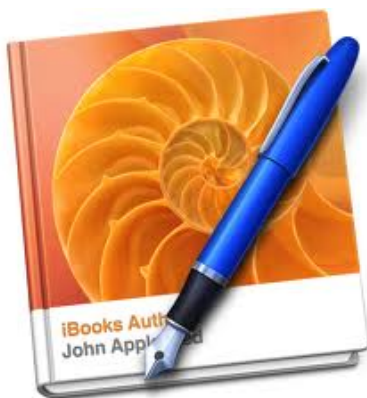
### 6 Basic Rules for Children and



In Oakland, a group of high school girls listen eagerly for their mission: Use the tools on hand to design a self-propelled boat that can cross water with 50 passengers on board. The passengers: pennies. The tools: pipe cleaners, popsicle sticks, and balloons. The water: an inflatable kiddie pool.

It's another engineering "design challenge" at [Techbridge](#), an after-school program for girls that encourages interest in STEM-science, technology, engineering, and mathematics-subjects. Close to 30 girls are here this day at Arroyo High School, one of 21 Techbridge sites in California's Bay Area that serve more than 600 elementary and secondary girls in total, close to 90 percent of them minority students ([further details](#)).

## DIGITAL SNACK: Learn how Kids become Authors!



Apple recently made two major announcements that are game-changers in education: (1) A new partnership with the three leading textbook publishers that will quickly produce [highly-interactive high-quality content e-textbooks](#), available for download to any iPad or iPhone. (2) A new authoring application ([iBooks Author](#)) that allow publisher (AND students!) to easily create

### Social Media

Enjoy this valuable video from Tech & Learning to help kids become Social Media Savvy ([click here](#)).

[Lessons from Abroad](#)  
What can California learn from schools around the globe?

[Linda Darling-Hammond](#) discusses assessment in the world's top performing schools ([click here](#)).

Finland's winning formula video series ([click here](#)).

Preparing citizens of the World in Seattle, a global view for elementary students ([click here](#)).

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and publish an interactive, multimedia book and host it on the iTunes store.

The idea that students or even a class can produce AND publish their own textbook of such high quality then make it available on the iTunes store as a download is amazing. Kids as publishers... let the learning begin.

Once you join, add **California ASCD** to "**My Groups**" and get plugged in.

## Teaching Kids Visual Literacy

Zorana Ercegovac, Drexel University, USA published a study in the [International Association of School Librarianship](#). The study points to the importance of teaching students to properly tag images. This task promotes high level skills such as analysis, synthesis, executive function, creative thinking, and Internet literacy. The study sheds light on the potential to improve age-appropriate access to images by means of offering a multi-tiered approach to image representation. It also introduces a transparent approach to teaching information literacy concepts through creative thinking about the meaning of resources and their relationship in a broader information cycle context. ([click here for complete article](#)).

## CURRICULUM NIBBLES: The Latest News in California Education

- **George Manthey honored** as CASCD Outstanding Instructional Leader ([CASCD](#))
- Will **Brown's planned tax hike** be good for schools? ([KQED Capital](#))
- **Input sought to revise new Math Framework**, April 18 deadline ([CDE & SBE](#))
- **Transitional Kindergarten** implementation holds without funding ([Santa Maria Times](#))
- Diane Ravitch: **Why California gives me hope** ([Washington Post](#))
- California principals face shrinking budgets and mounting pressure ([Venture County Star](#))
- **Whooping cough vanishes** in California ([LA Times](#))
- Riverside schools **math scores soar** with new iPad book ([CNET](#))
- LAUSD teachers consider new teacher-evaluation system ([LA Times](#))
- Oakland USD tries to **stop senior teachers** from cherry-picking assignments ([SF Chronicle](#))
- Torlakson promotes **Healthy School Project** in Bay Area ([KCBS Bay Area](#))
- Pleasanton schools use **drug-sniffing dogs** to reduce drug use ([SJ Mercury](#))
- Merced COE advances improvements to early childhood education ([Merced Sun-Star](#))
- Governor **Brown proposes to reduce the number of tests** students take ([SF Chronicle](#))
- **Apps designed** to help California teachers ([Government Tech](#)) ([Sacramento Bee](#))
- San Bernardino City Unified **teaches parents for student success** ([Redlands Daily](#))
- Kern County school consider **solar power campuses** ([Bakersfield Californian](#))

3 ways to

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