



CURRICULUM FEED - July 2010

Dear Scott,

I hope this issue of our Curriculum Feed finds educators getting some well deserved down time. Enjoy the July edition of our monthly newsletter; we invite you to forward the Feed to colleagues and friends inviting them to join our professional organization. Applications for new and renewing memberships are online ([click here](#)). Your support advances our mission of promoting exemplary practices to ensure that all learners reach their full potential.

On August 9th, CASCD is offering a symposium presented by Dr. Mike Schmoker in the Los Angeles area. Dr. Schmoker is nationally renowned for his work in school reform. As a former middle and high school English teacher as well as football coach, Dr. Schmoker has published four books and appeared in Educational Leadership, Phi Delta Kappan, Education Week and TIME magazine. [Click here for event details.](#)

Warm regards,
[Mike Hendricks](#), CASCD President

From "Brutal Facts" to "Best Schools"



Join [Mike Schmoker](#) in this powerful workshop on August 9th at Moffett Elementary School in Lennox ([map](#)).

Registration cost:

\$150 member | \$195 non-members

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

Mike will deliver a two part workshop creating the foundation for successful 21st century learning. Imagine a true renaissance in your schools-starting immediately.

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[August 9th](#)**

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Teachers In Charge

What if teachers' ran their own professional development through projects? And what if teachers themselves received funding for these projects? What if the purpose of such projects was not only to spur individual professional learning, but also to develop leadership skills and initiate an exchange of knowledge among one's peers?
[Complete Article.](#)

Technology Trends to Watch in 2010-11

Part one, encounters what Jim Collins calls the "brutal facts about those practices which educators know are important, but which have yet to occur in classrooms."

Part two moves to an interactive workshop where participants learn the simple elements most essential to substantive, measurable improvement:

- Effective, targeted teamwork/teacher collaboration
- Manageable, measurable goals
- Simple, ongoing use of student assessment data

Participants will leave the workshop knowing how to immediately and effectively conduct simple school improvement planning and ongoing activities that achieve both short and long-term results. Throughout the workshop, participants examine real examples of schools and districts who demonstrate the power of these elements in ensuring higher achievement.

Dr. Schmoker has written four books and numerous articles, which have appeared in Educational Leadership, Phi Delta Kappan, Education Week and TIME magazine.

Recommended Reads ... Insights from your California Colleagues



[Dr. Barbara Fatum](#) recommends "[Research Based Strategies to Ignite Student Learning](#)" by Dr. Judith Willis.

Dr. Fatum shares, "Dr. Judy Willis is a brilliant teacher. In this book, she synthesizes current brain research and discusses the application of this research to the classroom in an interesting and easy-to-read style. This book is written for the classroom teacher and contains many valuable insights. My favorite part is in the chapter about 'Teachable Moments.'"

[California ASCD](#) invites you to share your "Recommended Reads."

[Click here to share.](#)

Common Core Standards Released

A final version of common academic standards for [English](#) and [math](#) instruction in U.S. schools was released Wednesday by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers. The standards, posted at www.corestandards.org, outline what students should know in each grade, from elementary school through high-school graduation. Join a Webinar on June 30 hosted by the authors ([register now](#)) or listen to the archives session after June 30 ([click here](#)).

Curriculum Snack ... best teachers I've known

School districts and across the country are trying to grab students' attention. That means they're adding social media features to lessons, offering more online and blended courses, and taking advantage of mobile devices. Here's what's coming ... [more](#).

America After 3 PM

A parent survey, detailed in [America After 3 PM: Special Report on Summer: Missed Opportunities, Unmet Demand](#) finds significant interest in summer learning programs, especially among African- American and Hispanic families ... [full report](#).

Diplomas Count 2010: Graduation by the Numbers

Every year, [Diplomas Count](#) takes a careful look at nationwide trends related to high school graduation. The school systems featured in this report share a desire to go beyond numbers alone. In this report, "graduation by the numbers" becomes the story of using data to plot a real, practical course of action that will help put students now at risk of dropping out on track to earn diplomas. [Executive Summary](#).

Sanctioned Snooping

Susan Brooks-Young blogs about the new supreme court ruling that addresses privacy concerns to school or district who provide employers with cell phones ... [more](#).



Enjoy a poignant article from this summer's issue of [Educational Leadership](#), the flagship publication of [ASCD](#).

[Susan Allred](#), a 37-year veteran teacher and administrator now reflects back on her work and discusses the important qualities that advanced her work and made the most significant teacher-influences of her career.

Whether they were teaching in the 1960s or in the 2000s, effective teachers share a common set of characteristics ... among them: Teachers were masters of their content; Teachers were insatiable learners; Teachers had a positive outlook; Teachers were team members; Teachers created communities for success. [Complete Article](#).

Digital Snack ... cybersafety in the classroom

Although the Internet has revolutionized communication and provided powerful new educational tools for student learning, it has also created risks and raised ethical issues for students of all grades, as it has created many opportunities for illegal, inappropriate and unsafe behavior among all participants.

Increasingly, K12 educators are seeing the need to not only utilize the Internet in instruction, but also to teach students the knowledge and critical thinking skills needed to be safe and responsible digital citizens both inside and outside of school. District Administrator Kevin Butler offers practical suggestions to educators ... [more](#).

Reauthorizing ESEA ... UCLA Policy Report

The Government's blueprint for reform of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is [now online](#).

A newly released report from the [UCLA Center for Mental Health in Schools](#) makes recommendations for the reauthorization of ESEA from the perspective of addressing barriers to learning and teaching. The analysis illuminates fundamental gaps in the prevailing recommendations from the U.S. Department of Education and other major stakeholders and education leaders. Specific emphasis is given to what's missing with respect to a component to address barriers to learning and teaching and re-engage disconnected students ... [complete report](#).

Los Angeles Teacher Use Rap in Algebra

A middle-school math teacher is using hip-hop's rhyming lyrics to help students learn complicated algebra formulas. LaMar Queen, an award-winning Los Angeles teacher, said students learn more by putting lessons in a format they enjoy -- songs. "*Rap is what the kids respond to,*" he said. "*They don't have a problem memorizing the songs at all.*" ... [more](#).

CALIFORNIA CURRICULUM NIBBLES

- **FREE Webinar July 7** ... Implementing Evidence-Based Practices & Programs ([WestEd](#))
- State Superintendent announces new list of **financially troubled districts** ([press release](#))
- California schools use **sports to teach** the core curriculum ([Sacramento Bee 6.12](#))
- **Mouse Squad** helps California students gain technical expertise ([San Jose Mercury 6.6](#))

- **Science gets a boost** in Oakland ([Oakland Tribune 6.5](#))
- California considers **raising age for kindergarten** start ([LA Times 6.2](#))
- Teachers take Center Stage ... **connecting drama with learning** ([San Jose Mercury 6.28](#))
- [California After School Network](#) offers **valuable resources to extend learning** beyond the traditional school day.
- Except in California, more unions support the new bids for Race to the Top ([Ed Week 6.16](#))
- California educators remain critical of Obama reforms ([NY Times 6.5](#))



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California ASCD | 612 Camino Cerrado | South Pasadena | CA | 91030