



Curriculum Feed | October

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We Need a Different National Conversation



Dr. Gene Carter, Executive Director of ACSD, penned an article for Education Week that challenge educators to factor in the human condition when we debate the idea of education reform.

"... if we don't find some common ground- and some common national values-around children, we are indeed a nation at risk."

He exposes our shortcomings and warns that, "Recent education reform efforts have provided clarity about what students should learn so they can be successful and by shining a bright light on our nation's achievement gaps. But the single-minded focus on those accountability efforts has warped our perspective; we worry extensively about test scores and far too little about the whole child." [Complete EdWeek Article.](#)

Obama offers Flexibility with NCLB & Annual Address to Schools

School Innovations & Advocacy, a state educational think tank

NEW Workshops! ---

"Checking for Understanding"
with Doug Fisher

Jan 13, Montebello

"Digital Leadership"

Devin Vodicka &
Jason Borgen
Jan 26, Dublin
Jan 27, Fresno

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BUDGET MATTERS

produces timely Cabinet Reports to keep educators abreast of pressing issues. Tom Chorneau lays out the broad strokes of the Obama's education waiver package that opens the door of applications in a few weeks.

Like most packages there are strings attached. The fiscal flexibility could remove accountability measures that are necessary to ensure a quality education for all. [Read the details of Chorneau's editorial.](#)

Another lens ... [USA Today](#)

President Obama urges students to "use their time in school to try new things, discover new passions and hone their skills to prepare themselves for the kind of profession they want in the future." [Complete speech click here.](#)

CURRICULUM SNACK: The Coach & the Evaluator



[Bob Tschannen-Moran](#) and [Megan Tschannen-Moran](#), developers of the evocative coaching process, remind educators of the "well-worn choreography of the typical supervisory conference: **Three to glow on, three to grow on.** Three compliments regarding things the supervisor likes, followed by three suggestions for improvement. Three steps forward, three steps back."

The authors suggest that when the cultural forces of accountability outweigh the personal work of professional improvement then rules replace trust, communications become constrained, people hide problems, management becomes intrusive, and cooperation is withheld. Tschannen-Moran's share key "concerns" that must be applied to maximize a positive change in teaching behavior. Enjoy the article in this summer's edition of [Educational Leadership](#), the flagship journal of ASCD. [Click here for full article.](#)

Common Core - Math Standards Don't Add UP

[Grant Wiggins](#) shares his concerns with the [Common Core math standards](#). He states, "*the mathematics components of the Common Core State Standards Initiative are a bitter disappointment. In terms of their limited vision of math education, the pedestrian framework chosen to organize the standards, and the incoherent nature of the standards for mathematical practice in particular, I don't see how these take us forward in any way.*"

Wiggins suggests the standards lack an appreciation for the authentic problem that mathematical thinking should face. He continues, "*A look at the [National Assessment of Educational Progress](#), or NAEP; the [Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study](#), or TIMSS; and state test results shows that our students are woefully deficient in solving any problems that require a transfer of learning, as opposed to*

Get the latest news on the California budget from our friends at [ACSA](#) ... [click here.](#)

FREE Webinars

[Oct 13 @ 10:30](#)
Rich Educational Offerings despite fiscal constraints.
[Oct 19 @ 10:30](#)
Articulating high expectations from K-12.

The Whole Child!

Access ASCD's [Whole Child](#) portal to find out how to increase [home & school partnerships](#). [Listen to the Podcast.](#)

A Catalog of iPad Apps for Education

Bookmark this one-page blog that outlines a long list of tested education apps. [Click Here.](#)

Turn on your Cell Phones!

Audrey Watters helps educators understand how to leverage the cell phones that students carry with them everyday. Four examples:
- [Remind 101](#)
- [Poll Everywhere](#)
- [Celly](#)
- [Study Boost](#)
[Read her blog for details.](#)

the plug and chug of simple rules and algorithms."

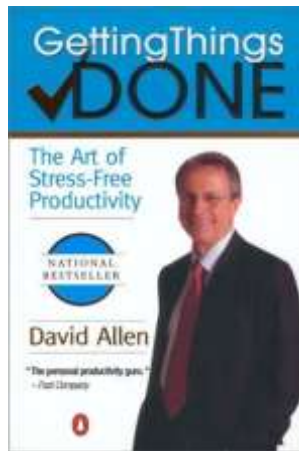
[Complete article in Education Week.](#)

Hot Topic - Teacher Performance Evaluations

McREL, an education research center, provides a framework to consider the topic of teacher performance evaluations. They bring a body of research together to help educators expand the depth of the issue and become well informed on this controversial topic. [Click here.](#)

RECOMMENDED READS: Great Performances

CASCD member [John Forbes](#), Learning Director at CART in Fresno, shares a good read for our community. *"Seldom does a book grab my attention and challenge how my professional and personal life is organized, but **Getting Things Done** by David Allen (2002) did just that. The GTD (Getting Things Done) process is designed to help anyone, regardless of their profession, to organize their workflow with the ultimate goal of living a stress-free life. I found specific and immediate application to my own life. Knowing the stresses and time constraints placed on educators, becoming more efficient has importance to all of us. I recommend GTD to any educator. You will be challenged to change how you process workflow and become more efficient. In your work with parents, students, colleagues, district initiatives, and state mandates, being more efficient means you will have more time for the most important tasks. The Getting Things Done system proposed by David Allen offers a simple, common sense way to be more efficient so we can better serve our students."* 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.](#)



Schools Turn to a New Projection Display

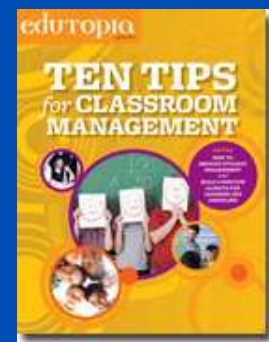


The compact LUCERA Projection Display is ideal for classroom projects, IEP's, parent teacher conferences, fund- raising events, conferences, school board presentations. Its outstanding performance is consistent even when ambient to bright light is present. Lucera is truly changing the way you view the world!

A Math Hater's Favorite Five Math Resources

1. Chat with others about math on Twitter with [#mathchat](#).
2. Quick quality [math games](#).
3. Learn math with [passion and wit](#).
4. Learn math from kids on [Math Train](#).
5. Check out [Math Wiz!](#)

Classroom Management Matters by Edutopia



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Curriculum Nibbles from California

- State Superintendent Torlakson visits **Charter Oak Unified** ([Glendora Patch](#))
- Fresno Unified **defies state** over whooping cough vaccine ([Fresno Bee](#))
- Fowler **schools go green** with Governor's backing ([Fresno Bee](#))
- **Compton tests the state's Parent Trigger Law** ([New York Times](#))
- **How does California fair** in Obama's exemption plans for NCLB? ([San Jose Mercury](#))
- Elk Grove Unified provides **materials incentives** to stay in school ([Sacramento Bee](#))
- Oakdale finds student success in **hard work & personal responsibility** ([Oakdale Leader](#))
- California will lead effort in **writing science standards** ([CDE News Release](#))
- Redlands **students re-enact signing** of US Constitution ([The Sun](#))
- **New legislation** coming to a school near you ([Silicon Valley Foundation](#))
- Los Altos school **opening doors** to highly motivated students ([Wired Magazine](#))

3 ways to
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