

communicator



The Monthly Newsletter of the National Association of Elementary School Principals

Common Core Implementation Checklist for Principals

Principal leadership will be key in the transition to Common Core State Standards. NAESP has developed this checklist to help you determine what bodies of knowledge and skill sets you will need to gain as you prepare to lead your school into using the new standards.

As a first step, you will need to gauge your basic knowledge of the standards—asking yourself if you are informed about the standards themselves, your state/district’s approach to implementation, recommendation from experts, models from other states, and national updates and trends. You might find it helpful to have key resources at your fingertips. Information sources might include NAESP, NAESP state affiliates, Council of Chief State School Officers, PARCC, Smarter Balanced, the Hunt Institute, and EngageNY.

Use the checklist to determine areas where you have made progress toward Common Core implementation as well as areas to focus on as you move forward. Visit NAESP’s website for additional resources, including NAESP’s [free webinars on Common Core State Standards](#) or those archived on NAESP’s [Common Core State Standards Resources Page](#).

Please identify areas of strengths and needs by checking tasks that you have completed and making notes about your plans.

Leadership, Awareness Building, and Communication

Are you:

- Setting a vision for your school community’s transition to Common Core State Standards?
- Establishing teacher buy in, leading communications so that teacher leaders are engaged and committed?
- Exploring ways to implement the Common Core (Review)? Are teachers taking small steps to adjust to the rigor and expectations?
- Allowing for incubation—time for teachers to reflect?
- Communicating changes to curriculum with parents?

communicator



The Monthly Newsletter of the National Association of Elementary School Principals

Professional Development for Teachers

Are you:

- Gathering information to understand teachers' needs?
- Enhancing the use of an inquiry-based approach at your school?
- Facilitating understanding curriculum changes for Math?
 - Conceptual Understanding
 - Focus
 - Reasoning
 - Mastery
- Facilitating understanding curriculum changes for English Language Arts?
 - Text Complexity
 - Rigor
 - Shift to focus on informational text
 - Evidence-based supports for writing
- Facilitating understanding implications for other subjects?
 - Science
 - Social Studies
- Facilitating understanding of assessments?
 - Intent
 - Item prototype
 - Delivery (technology)

Implications for Student Learning

Are you:

- Measuring students' engagement in new, deeper, more rigorous learning activities supporting the Common Core and documenting the evidence?
- Identifying grade levels/subjects that appear to be at the forefront of implementing Common Core in your school?
- Identifying grade levels/subjects that might need more help in implementing the Common Core in your school?
- Determining plans for English-language learners, students with individualized education plans, and gifted and talented students in your school?

This is the printer-ready version of *Communicator*, an electronic newsletter of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP).

communicator



The Monthly Newsletter of the National Association of Elementary School Principals

- Developing plans for struggling students?

Capacity Building

Are you:

- Planning job-embedded professional development?
- Determining a timeline for implementation?
- Determining a team of Common Core instructional leaders?
- Determining a plan for getting assistance?
- Determining how you might need to adjust budgeting, staffing, planning, or professional development?
- Identifying additional funding/resources from your state, district, foundations, and other sources?
- Setting strategies to monitor and adjust during the implementation period?

Special Considerations for Your School

- Is your school a Needs Improvement/Turnaround/Transformation school?
- Does your school have unique populations (ELL, special disabilities, socioeconomic)?
- Does your school experienced recent teacher-turnover?
- Is your school in the midst of union/labor expectations/negotiations?
- Are adjustments in curriculum needed (which areas/grades)?

Conclusions About Implementation in Your School

- Identify 2-3 key strengths:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

communicator



The Monthly Newsletter of the National Association of Elementary School Principals

☐ Identify the 2-3 areas of focus for improvement:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

NAESP Welcomes New President-elect, Board Members


NAESP welcomes [Nancy Flatt Meador](#), principal of Madison Middle School in Madison, Tennessee, as the recently elected president-elect of NAESP's Board of Directors. Meador, a member of NAESP since 1998 who has served on its board of directors since 2010, also has held memberships in the Tennessee Principals Association, the Metro Nashville Principals Association, and ASCD.



"The bar has been raised nationwide, and principals are determined to meet the challenges and expectations," Meador said. "I am passionate about my commitment to serve and support principals across our nation, use our collective efforts to influence decisions that shape state and national legislation, and work together to continue to build NAESP as a premier educational association serving and supporting all elementary and middle-level principals."

In NAESP zone elections, the following individuals were elected to the board of directors: [Travis Wyatt](#), principal of Jasper County Junior High School in Newton, Illinois, will represent Zone 5 principals in Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky; [Steven Geis](#), principal of North Trail Elementary School in Farmington, Minnesota, will represent Zone 7 principals in Alaska, Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming; [Robyn Conrad](#), principal of Playa del Rey Elementary School in Gilbert, Arizona, will represent principals in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Guam, and American Samoa.

The NAESP Board of Directors recently appointed Raul Sanchez, principal of Bond Elementary School in Kirtland, New Mexico, as the new Director at Large, Minority.

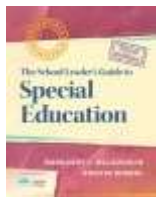
New board members will begin three-year terms on July 1. The current president-elect, [Mark Terry](#), who is principal of Eubanks Intermediate School in Southlake, Texas, will begin his tenure as NAESP president on July 1 and Meador will assume the office of president one year later. 

communicator



The Monthly Newsletter of the National Association of Elementary School Principals


Special Education Book Released



The seventh book in the "Essentials for Principals" series, published by NAESP in collaboration with Solution Tree, helps principals ensure they are best serving students with disabilities and meeting schools' responsibilities as required by U.S. law.

In "[Essentials for Principals: The School Leader's Guide to Special Education](#), third edition," Margaret J. McLaughlin and Kristin Ruedel guide principals in navigating the processes for identifying and assessing students with disabilities, designing and implementing individualized education programs (IEPs) and behavior intervention plans (BIPs), and creating a school culture that involves parents and promotes positive behaviors.

The authors describe effective instruction practices for teaching students with disabilities, placing an emphasis on inclusion in the general education classroom. This "Essentials for Principals" resource explains the key legal rights afforded to students with disabilities and their parents as required under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), and the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

Other titles in the Essentials for Principals series are "[Data-Based Decision Making](#)," "[Effective Program Evaluation](#)," "[The School Leader's Guide to English Learners](#)," "[Mobile Learning Devices](#)," "[Communicating and Connecting With Social Media](#)," and "[The School Leader's Guide to Professional Learning Communities at Work](#)."TM 

Federal Update: Budget Cuts, Blow-by-Blow

The focus of Washington during this election year is largely on deficit reduction. Although, both parties agree that something must be done to avoid the automatic, across-the-board spending cuts scheduled to occur in January 2013, they differ greatly on which approach to take. Republicans rebuff revenue increases while aiming to protect defense programs. Democrats would rather see a balanced approach of both targeted spending reductions and revenue increases.

communicator



The Monthly Newsletter of the National Association of Elementary School Principals

The two legislative chambers are too far apart—some \$19 billion—on their agreed spending caps to feasibly complete the appropriations process before the end of the current fiscal year: September 30, 2012. Of note to educators is the \$8 billion difference that comes from the Labor, Health & Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill allocation. The House is proposing a 4 percent decrease in funding while the Senate has proposed a 1 percent increase.

If the House and Senate are unable to resolve their differences, short-term spending bills would need to be signed into law in order to keep the federal government running past the end of 2012.

As if this was not enough of a budget battle, the appropriations process is further muddied by the unprecedented automatic spending cuts (known in budget speak as “sequestration”) that are scheduled to start January 2013 during the middle of the 2012-2013 school year. In January, federal budgets will be exposed to what is estimated at this point to be an 8 percent across-the-board cut. Few programs, besides Pell Grants, would be exempt from cuts from next year’s Department of Education budget.

An 8 percent cut to the Department of Education would result in a \$3.5 billion reduction in funding in 2013, when compared to current funding levels. Title I would be slashed by \$1 billion and IDEA funding would be hacked by \$896 million.

Budget cuts of this magnitude could inhibit the ability of school districts and states to sustain resources for programs that close achievement gaps or retain effective teachers, especially considering many states are still reeling from record budget shortfalls.

In an attempt to avert some of the automatic cuts to discretionary spending, the House proposed a package of target spending reductions that emphasizes Republican priorities. This move to reduce automatic cuts does not spare programs equally. It not only eliminates Defense Department cuts, but it also proposes a funding increase while shifting all of the automatic cuts to nondefense discretionary spending, such as the Department of Education. This strategy increases the impact of cuts on the remaining federal programs.


communicator



The Monthly Newsletter of the National Association of Elementary School Principals

The House-proposed package of target “savings” hits certain populations hard. It reduces Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (or food stamp) benefits for all recipients, and eliminates food assistance for an estimated 1.8 million low-income Americans. The proposal also abolishes the Social Service Block Grant to States and reduced the number of low-income children covered by the Child Health Insurance Program. This proposal is unlikely to be considered in the Senate.

While most of the legislative days remaining in this session of Congress will be devoted to passing a FY 2013 budget, dealing with sequestration, and debating expiring tax cuts, it is a critical time for grassroots advocacy. Although the president’s FY 2013 budget proposal for the U.S. Department of Education includes a 2.5 percent increase in funding, which largely goes to administration priorities such as Race to the Top and a new initiative to improve the teaching profession, capping discretionary spending and freezing education investments is a real possibility.

Educators must reach out to their representatives in Congress and remind them how important robust education funding is to the future well-being of our nation. Enrollments continue to increase and more students need special services as the student population becomes more diverse. In today’s economy, higher education attainment has a direct relationship to lower unemployment rates and higher income earnings. Our nation’s economic problems cannot be solved on the backs of our students. 

June Deadlines Approach for Creativity and Inclusive Playground Grants


The deadlines to apply for two NAESP cosponsored grant contests are in June.

Sponsored by Crayola and NAESP, the [Champion Creatively Alive Children](#) grant program seeks to help educators integrate the arts across the curriculum to build students’ 21st century skills in critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Up to 20 elementary schools will receive grants to implement, document, and share results of an innovative arts-infused project. Each grant includes \$2,500 and \$500 worth of Crayola products. The deadline [to apply](#) is June 15.

communicator



The Monthly Newsletter of the National Association of Elementary School Principals

Landscape Structures, in partnership with the NAESP Foundation, has introduced the *School Grounds. Playgrounds. Common Ground.*™ essay contest in an effort to bring inclusive playgrounds to schools throughout North America. [Enter for your chance](#) to win the grand prize, \$50,000 in inclusive playground equipment, or be one of five runners-up for \$15,000 in inclusive playground equipment! The contest, which runs through June 30, 2012, is open to practicing elementary and middle school principals and related educators in the U.S. and Canada (except Quebec). Visit <http://playlsi.com/school-playground-contest> to learn more. 


Scholastic VP Named to NAESP Foundation Board; Scholastic Activities Announced

The NAESP Foundation Board of Directors recently announced the appointment of Anne E. Lee, vice president, program development, at Scholastic Book Fairs as a director-at-large. The board decided to invite a non-principal to its ranks to help bring a different perspective on the NAESP Foundation's activities and fundraising efforts. Ms. Lee is uniquely positioned in the business and education community, and this combination will help the foundation in the development of programs and services that will benefit NAESP members and elementary and middle level children.

In addition, Scholastic and NAESP will both celebrate a 100th Anniversary in 2021 and principals are invited to the Summer 2012 Reading Summits for Educational Leaders.

The NAESP Foundation and Scholastic will work in collaboration to plan a special event that celebrates the work, commitment, and success of elementary and middle-level principals across the nation for the past 100 years.

Scholastic Reading Summits

Scholastic Book Fairs invites you to the Summer 2012 Reading Summits for Educational Leaders! This day-long program is designed to provide you professional development skills and insight on how to fully leverage children's literature in your school's improvement plan. Hear from nationally recognized educators and children's book authors as they discuss innovative strategies to promote student reading practice. Check out the locations and [register](#) now! 

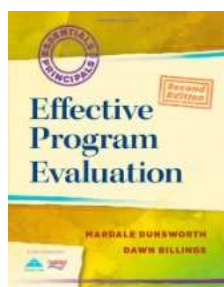
communicator



The Monthly Newsletter of the National Association of Elementary School Principals

Learn from the Experts: New Webinar Series from NAESP and Solution Tree

NAESP and Solution Tree are presenting webinars based on the popular "Essentials for Principals" series.




Join coauthors Dawn Billings and Mardale Dunsworth for "Essentials for Principals: Effective Program Evaluation" on Tuesday, May 22. Billings and Dunsworth, both consultants, together represent more than 35 years of administrative experience and district improvement work. Learn strategies to evaluate academic programs' strengths and identify and address weaknesses, while including key stakeholders in a transparent and collaborative process.

Bolster your leadership skills with "Data-Based Decision Making," presented by author Edie Holcomb on Tuesday, June 5. A seasoned principal, district administrator, and professor, Holcomb is highly regarded for her ability to link research and practice. In this webinar, she will provide an in-depth examination of best data practices, and the principal's role in strengthening instruction and assessment through data use.

Both free webinars will take place from 4 to 5 p.m. EDT, with 45 minutes for the presentation followed by 15 minutes of Q & A.

For a preview of the webinars' content, pick up "[Essentials for Principals: Effective Program Evaluation](#)," and "[Essentials for Principals: Data-Based Decision Making](#)" in the National Principals Resource Center Bookstore.

More information about this series and other upcoming NAESP webinars can be found on the [NAESP webinar page](#). 

Enter the JUST ONE May Drawing and Support Your Profession!

Join the **JUST ONE** team and you could be a double winner! First, you'll be giving back to your profession by helping a colleague discover all the high-value benefits of membership in NAESP and your state's affiliated association. Second, you'll

This is the printer-ready version of *Communicator*, an electronic newsletter of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP).

communicator



The Monthly Newsletter of the National Association of Elementary School Principals


automatically be entered in the May drawing for a set of Crayola creative products valued at \$100 retail.

All you have to do is [make the commitment](#) to help us grow by JUST ONE new member when you complete a quick online form.

If all members participate and follow through on their commitment to membership growth, your network of peers could double in size. Then we'd have an even stronger voice for principals and more robust state and national organizations dedicated to serving the principalship.

This month's drawing will close at midnight, Thursday, May 31. Only members who complete the commitment form will be included in the drawing. One drawing entry per member is allowed.

Get on board with your fellow members across the nation on the [JUST ONE](#) team now!

NAESP is grateful to Crayola for its generous support of the JUST ONE initiative with the contribution of Crayola products for this drawing. 

Thinking of Making a Career Move? Go to the NAESP Career Center

NAESP aims to support you in all phases of your career—even in transitions. You will find the best match for your next career move at www.naesp.org/career-center-1. The NAESP Career Center is the only national job bank dedicated just to principals and other education leaders in elementary and middle schools.

Here's what you get as a job seeker:

- The power of a wide national network...and more jobs—FREE
- More than 500 school systems and other employers registered to post jobs
- The option to establish multiple personalized job alerts—FREE
- Storage online for multiple anonymous resume versions and cover letters for quick use when applying—FREE
- Optional resume posting upgrade for greater visibility

communicator




The Monthly Newsletter of the National Association of Elementary School Principals

- The ability to submit online applications—FREE
- Social media connections, including your LinkedIn profile, if you so choose—FREE
- Career coaching by email for free or by phone on a fee basis
- Resume services, articles, and advice, including career assessment services (fee based)


Student Councils Honored; Recognition Products Available from NAESP

Congratulations to the 92 [winners](#) of the 2011-2012 Student Council Excellence Award. For more than 20 years, the American Student Council Association has recognized student councils across the nation for making a difference in their schools and communities by organizing activities such as community food and clothing banks, adopt-a-grandparent programs, school beautification projects, tutoring programs, letter-writing campaigns to soldiers overseas, and fundraising events for disaster victims.

Thank you for making a difference!

It's not too late to [order](#) your end-of-the-year [student recognition products](#) and [resources for student councils](#). 

NAESP President Appears on Lifetime

Tune in to Lifetime TV's *Balancing Act* morning show to watch Rob Monson provide a principal's perspective on The Parent Teacher Corner. This month he will discuss after-school programming and the Dream School Challenge contest. [Read more](#). 



Principal Magazine Focuses on Measurement and Assessment

"When administrators are forced to respond to a single measure as an indicator of overall school quality, the result is often overreaction ... rather than long-term planning," writes Charles A. DePascale in the lead article of [the May/June issue of *Principal*](#). The theme articles delve into multiple measures and provide you with broad


communicator



The Monthly Newsletter of the National Association of Elementary School Principals



and deep knowledge of the various ways to maximize student, teacher, and principal assessments. In addition, feature articles address 21st century handwriting instruction and conclude a [five-part series, Unlocking Autism](#), with "An Inclusionary Model of Support."

Be sure to maximize your *Principal* magazine experience by reading the Web Exclusive article, "[The Common Core and You](#)," accessing dozens of [Web Resources](#) that accompany select articles, and by visiting the Principals' Office blog, where you can comment on the [Speaking Out article](#) on integrated professional learning communities and the [My Two Cents question](#) on setting achievable goals. 

Grants, Opportunities, & Free Resources

Dream School Challenge

The Balancing Act and the Learning First Alliance announce The Parent Teacher Corner: Dream School Challenge, a national contest that will reward one school and district with \$300,000 in educational prizes, including tablets, software, and digital arts programs. **Deadline: June 8**

<http://empower.thebalancingact.com/parent-teacher-corner/dream-school-challenge>

Arts Education Grants

Sponsored by Crayola and NAESP, the Champion Creatively Alive Children grant program seeks to help educators integrate the arts across the curriculum to build students' 21st century skills in critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Up to 20 elementary schools will receive grants to implement, document, and share results of an innovative arts-infused project. Each grant includes \$2,500 and \$500 worth of Crayola products. **Deadline: June 15**

www.naesp.org/champion-creatively-alive-children

School Playground Contest

Landscape Structures, in partnership with NAESP Foundation, has introduced the *School Grounds. Playgrounds. Common Ground.*™ essay contest in an effort to bring inclusive playgrounds to schools throughout North America. Enter for your chance to win the grand prize, \$50,000 in inclusive playground equipment, or be one of five

communicator



The Monthly Newsletter of the National Association of Elementary School Principals

runners-up for \$15,000 in inclusive playground equipment. The contest is open to practicing elementary and middle school principals and related educators in the U.S. and Canada (except Quebec). **Deadline: June 30**

<http://playsi.com/school-playground-contest>

Grant for Salad Bars in Schools

Seeking to increase children's consumption of fruits and vegetables, the Let's Move Salad Bars to Schools program plans to fund and grant 6,000 salad bars to schools across the nation by 2013. Any K-12 school or district participating in the National School Lunch Program is eligible to apply. **Deadline: Rolling**

<http://saladbars2schools.org/>

Books for Children in Need

First Book donates 35,000 books per day to programs and schools serving children from low-income families throughout the United States and Canada. Educators or program administrators at schools where at least 70 percent of the children come from low-income families are eligible to apply for the nonprofit's book distribution programs.

www.firstbook.org/receive-books

Powerful Free Tool for Data, Tutoring

School leaders know that every minute spent testing is a minute taken away from teaching. ASSISTments, a new, free web-based platform developed by Worcester Polytechnic Institute, aims to change that, offering teachers the ability to blend assessment questions and tutoring. Students receive real-time guidance, while teachers see instant reports on student progress. Plus schools and districts can build benchmarks right into the system. Contact NAESP@wpi.edu for training and more information.

<http://teacherwiki.assistment.org/wiki/About>

Webinar Series on Implementing Common Core Standards in Math

This free webinar series and online professional learning community, sponsored by ETA/Cuisenaire, provides advice and support regarding the national math curriculum. The program provides free webinars, live chats, lesson plans and online discussions to assist teachers in connecting and collaborating with others in the same grade level.

http://www.edweb.net/inv_math

Webcast on RTI in Early Childhood Settings

communicator



The Monthly Newsletter of the National Association of Elementary School Principals

"Implementing Response to Intervention in Early Childhood Settings: National, State, and Program Perspectives," an 80-minute webcast from the RTI Action Network, features a panel of nationally recognized researchers and dynamic RTI implementers on RTI's role in early childhood. This unique blend of multiple perspectives targets matching high-quality instruction and interventions to meet learning needs during the early childhood years.

<http://www.rtinetwork.org/professional/forums/rti-national-online-forum-implementing-response-to-intervention-in-early-childhood-settings>

Free Fitness Curriculum

The ACE Operation FitKids curriculum from the American Council on Exercise is designed for educators looking to integrate health and fitness into classroom learning. The 7-lesson curricula for grades 3 to 8 teach students the dangers of being overweight and the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle.

<http://www.acefitness.org/ofk/curriculum.aspx>

Free Pen Pal Club Subscription

Pen Pal Kids Club, a global social network for kids, is offering free classroom subscriptions to K-8 teachers across the United States. The website promotes cross-curricular collaboration by integrating nonfiction writing, geography, social studies, and technology while offering students a chance to discover different cultures and meet new friends from across the globe.

<http://www.PenPalKidsClub.com>

Free Classroom Supplies

Teachers can use a helping hand when it comes to stocking up on school supplies. That is why The Clorox Company is launching the *Canisters for Classrooms* program to help teachers get Clorox® Disinfecting Wipes for their classrooms and get parents involved in donating, too! When teachers put Clorox Disinfecting Wipes on their back-to-school list, Clorox will automatically donate two canisters to their classroom (while supplies last)! Visit [Clorox Classrooms](http://www.clorox.com/classrooms/canisters/) to upload your back-to-school supply list or create your back-to-school supply list online.

<http://www.clorox.com/classrooms/canisters/> 