Common Core Implementation Checklist

This checklist is meant to serve as an information guide on some of the most critical steps to complete in preparation for implementingthe CCSS. 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? 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?

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 the 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?
- ☐ 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)?
- ☐ Has 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. _____

_____

Identify 2-3 areas of focus for improvement:

1. _____

_____

2. _____

_____

3. _____

_____

Common Core Implementation Resources

Find links to the resources below and more at
http://www.naesp.org/common-core-state-standards-resources

Leadership Resources:

• **NAESP Webinar: Dialogues on the Common Core** offers practical insight on how to prepare a school for implementation, as well as national and state-level perspective.

• **EdWeb.net** features an online community for school leaders who are working on Common Core implementation.

• **The Hunt Institute** and the **Council of Chief State School Officers** have commissioned a series of video vignettes that explain the Common Core Standards.

Professional Development Resources:

• **PD360/NAESP Webinar: Leadership for the Common Core: Synthesize, Strategize, Maximize!** focuses on how principals can prepare teachers and their schools to integrate the Common Core.

• The resource page offered by the **National Council of Teachers of Mathematics** provides PowerPoint presentations on mathematics standards by grade span.

• The resource page offered by the **International Reading Association** features webinars to help strengthen your understanding of how CCSS in English language arts affects you and your students.

• **NAESP Webinar: PARCC 101** provides an update on the status of PARCC and information on tools and resources available to assist principals with assessments.

• The **Smarter Balanced** website provides a list of member states and information about assessments for educators and parents.

Student Learning Resources:

• **EngageNY** outlines six instructional shifts in Common Core ELA and Math.

• **Student Achievement Partners** offers tools for implementation and action steps that can be tackled this school year.

• **ASSISTments'** math assessment tools are tagged to skills that are mapped to the Common Core State Standards.

• **Kentucky's Department of Education** provides resources on connecting curriculum, instruction, and assessments and teaching tools.

Capacity Building Resources:

• **Student Achievement Partners** features reflections by teachers about their work in implementing the Common Core.

• **Achieve** provides a Common Core implementation workbook for all states in the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC).

Special Consideration Resources:

• The resource page prepared by the **Council for Exceptional Children** provides resources on what educators need to know for implementation.

• **IDEA Partnership** features fact sheets and PowerPoints to help explain alternate assessments.

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