FACILITATOR'S GUIDE: INTRODUCING THE COMMON CORE TO PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

"Introducing the Common Core to Parents and Community Members" is a 15 minute – 1 hour module designed to provide teachers and administrators with information that will help them explain the key shifts required by the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy to a broad audience. It is anticipated that these resources will be especially helpful to educators who are presenting to parents, members of the community, and administrators during local school council meetings, board meetings, or parent/community support meetings. Depending upon the specific setting, this information can be shared in a variety of ways: facilitators may choose to present the slides and share or discuss the handouts included in this module; facilitators may also wish to review these resources on their own in preparation for a more informal conversation.

What's In This Module?

1. Facilitator's Guide
2. PowerPoint Presentation (11 slides, with Facilitator's Notes)
3. PowerPoint Presentation for share-out (11 slides, does not include Facilitator's Notes)
4. Video Resources
5. Web Resources

Using This Module

If you have 15 minutes…	If you have 45 minutes - 1 hour…
1. Share the Three Minute Video Explaining the Common Core Standards. Ask parents to discuss points of interest from video. Lead conversation around the difference between the Common Core State Standards and previous expectations and discuss the implications for college and career readiness. (15 minutes)	1. Use the Power Point presentation (including CCSS introductory video) to prepare for and/or present and guide a discussion about the Common Core State Standards and how they will impact K-12 education. Allow participants to reflect and discuss questions throughout the module, as time permits. (45 minutes-1 hour)
2. Have the following documents printed and ready for distribution:	2. Have the following documents printed and ready for distribution:
What is College and Career Ready?	*What is College and Career Ready?*
PTA Parent Guides to Student Success • Two-page version or four-page version	*PTA Parent Guides to Student Success* • Two-page version or four-page version
Parent Roadmaps to the Common Core Standards (by grade) Math and ELA / Literacy	*Parent Roadmaps to the Common Core Standards* • Math and ELA / Literacy

You are encouraged to customize any or all portions of this module to meet the needs of your audience. All times are suggested and can be expanded to incorporate more discussion as needed. Any portions of this module may be modified, reproduced, and disseminated without prior permission.

In some cases, facilitators may only have 15 minutes to speak with parents or community members or the setting might be informal and conversational. For these meetings, it is suggested that facilitators review the module in advance to prepare themselves to lead a conversation about CCSS and college and career readiness. Depending on the specific audience and their level of engagement, the facilitator may also share sample assessment items from the assessment consortia (links below).

Suggested Module Delivery

If you only have 15 minutes:

1. To introduce the Common Core, show the "Three Minute Video Explaining the Common Core Standards": http://vimeo.com/51933492 (3 minutes)
2. Ask the audience to share their thoughts about the video – What did they learn? What did they find interesting? What do they have questions about? (5-10 minutes)
3. Facilitate a general discussion about college and career readiness, using the facilitator's notes from the PowerPoint presentation as a reference if necessary. (5-10 minutes)
4. Distribute parent guides and *What is College and Career Ready?* handout.

If you have an hour:

1. Share the PowerPoint Presentation, "Explaining Common Core to Parents and Community Members" (30 minutes)

   The facilitator will begin with the Power Point presentation (or will present the content of the presentation), with the goal of helping parents and community members understand the need for the CCSS and its implications for college and career readiness. After showing the three minute video (included in the slide deck), the facilitator will raise a series of discussion questions (included in the facilitator's notes.) Facilitators are encouraged to stop and address questions throughout the module as time permits.

2. Distribute parent guides and *What is College and Career Ready?* handout.

   The facilitator can explain that The Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS) has written Parent Roadmaps*, available in Spanish and English, which provide guidance to parents about what their children will be learning in Math and ELA/Literacy in each grade. The PTA has written long and short versions of a* Parents' Guide to Student Success*, which include overviews of what children should be learning in each discipline, activities that parents can do at home, suggestions for building strong parent-teacher relationships, and tips for planning for college and career.*

- CGCS Parent Roadmaps to the Common Core Standards – Math:
  http://www.cgcs.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=244
- CGCS Parent Roadmaps to the Common Core Standards – ELA/Literacy:
  http://www.cgcs.org/Page/328
- PTA Parents' Guides to Student Success:
  http://pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583

The What is College and Career Ready? *document, created by Achieve, clearly and concisely defines college and career readiness and explains why it is so important for students' success after high school:*
http://www.ncpta.org/parent/Files/CollegeandCareerReady.pdf

Additional Resource Bank

In addition to the resources mentioned above, educators may choose to share these videos and other web resources with parents and community members on their classroom website or during parent-teacher meetings, local school council meetings, or board meetings.

Video Resources for Understanding the CCSS and the Shifts They Require:

- This 36:35 minute video, featuring Sandra Alberti of Student Achievement Partners, describes how the Common Core State Standards look different than previous standards in classrooms and how the expectations of students and teachers "shift" with the CCSS.
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MzNNKeSJMs

- This 2:42 minute video produced by the Hunt Institute gives background information about the need for Common Core State Standards.
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxefsLG2eps&feature=BFa&list=PLB8191D14AD2C69D6

- This 1:15 minute video produced by the Hunt Institute features Jason Zimba, a lead author of the Common Core State Standards. Zimba explains the shifts in mathematics and what they require.
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pBOnvzC_Yw

- This 1:44 minute video produced by the Hunt Institute features Sue Pimentel, a lead author of the Common Core State Standards. Pimentel explains the incorporation of grammar in the Standards and the need to focus on grammar and writing as indicated by post-secondary institutes and employers.
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zoeh0r1Qe_k

- This 3:51 minute video produced by the Hunt Institute features David Coleman, a lead author of the Common Core State Standards. Coleman explains the acquisition of knowledge through history, social studies, science, and other technical subject areas.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zHWMfg_8r0

Video Resources about College and Career Readiness:

- This 1:18 minute video produced by McGraw Hill Education features Timothy Shanahan, a member of ELA Common Core State Standards development team. Shanahan describes how the CCSS make complex, challenging text central to instruction.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5-uhmwsD6Y&feature=related

- This 5:04 minute video features David Coleman, a lead author of the Common Core State Standards, at an Education Sector and College Summit event. Coleman describes how a student's ability to read a complex text independently with confidence is a predictor of college and career readiness.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I1cCo6dOcec

Web Resources for Understanding the CCSS and the Shifts They Require

- This site is assembled by Student Achievement Partners to provide free, high-quality resources to educators now doing the hard work of implementing these higher standards.
www.achievethecore.org

- This site, assembled by the American Federation of Teachers, offers sample letters to parents about CCSS concepts being taught at various grade levels.
http://www.sharemylesson.com/TaxonomySearchResults.aspx?area=resources&keywords=%22sample+parent+letter%22&page=1&SFBC_FilterOption=2

- This site hosts the complete CCSS documents and a collection of related resources.
www.corestandards.org

- This document from the Career Readiness Partner Council explains what it means to be career ready and describes the skills needed to transition into employment.
http://www.careerreadynow.org/docs/CRPC_4pager.pdf

- This document, written primarily for military-connected families who tend to move frequently, emphasizes how the CCSS provide a rigorous and consistent set of expectations for all students from state to state.
http://www.militarychild.org/k-12-core-curriculum-standards

Background on the Modules and the Common Core State Standards

These modules have been designed for educators to use to support the implementation of the Common Core State Standards. The Common Core State Standards were designed explicitly as a staircase in K-12 to college and career readiness. Many U.S. students—even those who pass their high school courses and their high school exit exams—still face remediation when they get to college because they are not prepared for entry-level coursework. A 2008 study by ACT showed that only 1 in 10 8th graders are on target to be ready for college-level work by the time they graduate from high school, and only 35 percent of U.S. 12th graders scored at or above the "proficient" level on the NAEP reading test in 2005. Furthermore, research shows that remediation is a trap from which many students don't escape; the overwhelming majority of students who take remedial courses never complete college. The Common Core State Standards form a staircase to prepare students to be successful in college and their chosen career. If students successfully climb the staircase from kindergarten to 12th grade, they will then be truly ready for the demands that follow.

Please submit any feedback on this module to pdmodulefeedback@achievethecore.org.