



e-NEWS UPDATE

July 29, 2009

WASCD Alert: National Standards Drafts

The Common Core Standards Initiative has released an initial "working draft" of its college and career-readiness standards. This draft was originally distributed only to state education leaders for their feedback but was promptly leaked to various other interested parties. As a result, the Common Core Project has made this first draft publicly available. State leaders will be providing feedback on these draft standards for incorporation into a final document. After this input is processed, a revised version will be formally released for public comment in mid-August.

While this is an early version of the college and career-readiness standards and subject to change, we wanted to share this information with you as soon as possible.

[Drafts Standards for Reading, Writing, Communication July 14, 2009](#)

[Drafts Standards for Math July 16, 2009](#)

Draft of Common Standards Draws a Range of Reactions

A draft of national common standards, unexpectedly released on the Internet, is drawing a wide swath of opinions from educators, ranging from praise for encouraging critical thinking to disapproval for a formulaic approach. The project, led by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers, aims to set core curricula in English and math. Work will continue through the end of the year. [Education Week \(premium article access compliments of EdWeek.org\)](#) (7/23) Source: ASCD SmartBrief July 24, 2009

Federal Funds Will Come To Wisconsin Only After Changes

Wisconsin needs to make major change to tap into Race for the Top education funds, according to an analysis in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Education Secretary Arne Duncan has deemed Wisconsin's and other states' laws banning the use of student-testing data in teacher evaluations as "simply ridiculous." The writer wonders whether Wisconsin will be able to make the changes necessary to qualify for the funding. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (7/25) Source: ASCD SmartBrief July 27, 2009

Professional Development Opportunities: Formative Assessment

REL Midwest at Learning Point Associates invites you to join other district administrators, curriculum directors, and assessment directors Friday, August 14, 2009, at the InterContinental Chicago O'Hare for a one-day conference entitled Understanding Formative Assessment and Utilizing It to Improve Classroom Instruction.

Three of the country's leading experts will guide you to a deeper understanding of formative assessment by exploring what the research says, shared lessons learned, and discussing ways to maximize student learning:

- W. James Popham, Ed.D., Professor Emeritus at the University of California, Los Angeles
- James Pellegrino, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago
- Margaret Heritage, Assistant Director for Professional Development at the National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing at the University of California, Los Angeles

REL Midwest, the regional educational laboratory serving Wisconsin will reimburse educators working in Wisconsin for one night of lodging at the conference rate and up to \$500 for transportation expenses. However, participants must make their own hotel reservations and travel arrangements. There is no registration fee.

REL Midwest at Learning Point Associates has reserved a block of rooms for \$109 per night plus tax at the InterContinental Chicago O'Hare, 5300 N. River Road, Rosemont IL 60018 Visit <http://www2.learningpt.org/regRELMidwestAugEvent> to register for the event. For questions or additional information, please contact Peggie Garcia by telephone (312-288-7642) or e-mail (peggie.garcia@learningpt.org)

Wisconsin ASCD Program on Formative Assessment

After spending a day with the noted experts at the Learning Point program or if you can't make it, send a team to Wisconsin ASCD's two part program on [Formative Assessment](#) presented by our local expert, Eileen Depka, on October 21 & November 18 in Johnson Creek.