



February 3rd, 2014

Welcome Educators!

We have many new members to our listserv and we are happy to welcome you to the network of professionals! As always noted, we will never share your information or if you respond to the listserv, will it reply to all. We have several announcements this month and changes to the Shift Kit website.

First, **Supplemental Guides and PowerPoints** regarding the use of each kit have been added. The power of these items is hopefully the connection your teams have been waiting for! Each guide gives directions on how to run your own professional development along with the questions for each article, types of feedback and questions that should be asked while showcasing other PowerPoints within the Shift Kits, and even the suggested books that might be useful to use in a Professional Learning Community. To access these resources, please click the Shift Kit you'd like to visit and select Supplemental Guide and the PowerPoint underneath. <http://education.illinoisstate.edu/casei/ela/>

Next, **EQuIP Rubrics and User Guides** have been added to the bottom section of the site. Just scroll to the area entitled "Additional Implementation Resources" to find all the EQuIP tools. EQuIP (Educators Evaluating the Quality of Instructional Products) is an initiative of the American Diploma Project (ADP) Network designed to identify high-quality materials aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). These outstanding rubrics allow administrators and teachers to gauge whether multi day lessons and units are aligned to the CCSS and ready for use or if additional modifications to the multiday lessons or units are necessary. These resources along with guidance documents can be found at <http://education.illinoisstate.edu/casei/ela/equip/index.shtml>.

Finally, **Features of a Common Core Classroom** has also been added. This dynamic instrument has been aligned to the Danielson Framework and allows teachers to take a "pulse check" of sorts of their implementation level with the CCSS. ISBE has clearly defined in the Resource Introductory Page what this tool is to be utilized for and takes the stance that it is not to be used as an evaluation tool. It was created for the classroom teacher to incorporate after sound professional learning has taken place with all the ELA Shift Kits. The tool can be found at <http://education.illinoisstate.edu/downloads/casei/CCSS%20Classroom%20Features%20Analysis%20copyG.pdf>

**PARCC has released Computer Based Sample Test Items** and students are now able to interact with the test items! Teachers, students, parents and others can engage with the sample items using computer-based tools such as drag-and-drop, multiple select, text highlighting, and an equation builder. PARCC has also released online tutorials that demonstrate how students will navigate the test; how to use the computer-based tools; and features that make the test more accessible for all students, including those with disabilities and English learners. These items will not be scored. To access these samples, click here: <http://practice.parcc.testnav.com/#>

**Please do us the honor:** The Illinois State Board of Education is requesting teachers' participation with a learning standards implementation survey. The purpose of the survey is to gain a deeper understanding of teachers' needs and their progress as they implement the Illinois Learning Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics. The survey will remain open until February 14, 2013. Please click here to access the survey. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZLW2XG9>

Coming Soon: **Level Three of our Professional Learning Series (PLS)** is about to be launched! The PLS is housed at the following link and shares resources and tools for various levels of implementation ([http://www.isbe.net/common\\_core/pls/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/common_core/pls/default.htm)). We will be announcing it very shortly and housing items that will further assist teachers with practical classroom examples of CCSS resources! You may be hearing from the listserv earlier than normal due to this exciting prospect!

We will also be announcing our Summer Workshop Series dates!

Spring is closer than you think!  
ELA Content Specialists