

# ESN Coalition Members' Work on Common Core

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May-June 2014

# Afrique Service Center

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**Common Core focus:** Communicating through a series of workshops and written material, spreading the word of CCSS throughout their community.

**Information and/or resources that would be helpful:** Develop a way to deliver CCSS information to the immigrant population, and the non-english speaking population.

# America's Edge

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**Common Core focus:** Drafting op-eds using the voices/bylines of our business members in various communities around the state.

**Ways to organization wants to help build awareness:** Media and community relations and meetings with legislators and other policy makers to ensure they continue to support full implementation of Common Core State Standards.

**Information and/or resources that would be helpful:** More information about teacher prep and status reports on how well school districts across the state are preparing for full implementation in 2014-15.

**Issues around Common Core that need to be addressed:** Some people are concerned about "over-testing" kids. Others are worried that test scores will plummet and WA will have similar backlash as is happening in New York state and Kentucky.

# Bellevue Special Needs PTA

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**Common Core focus:** Parent meetings with information provided by the school district.

**Issues around Common Core that need to be addressed:** General understanding of what Common Core is and what it is not. There is a great deal of rhetoric and misunderstanding.

# Pacific Science Center

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**Common Core focus:** Incorporate appropriate Common Core standards into their program offerings and communication to Teachers and Parents and Administrators about those programs.

**Information and/or resources that would be helpful:** More communication on CCSS issues and concerns in the public and how we can best address those.

# Partnership for Learning

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**Common Core focus:** Overseeing the ReadyWA campaign, ensuring that educators and communities around the state are informed.

**Information and/or resources that would be helpful:** More partnerships with local communities to help educate and inform people.

# PTA

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**Common Core focus:** National PTA has developed Parent's Guides to Student Success and the Parent's Guide to New Assessments in Washington. Communication regarding CCSS is disseminated through the website, leadership newsletters and a class at the WA annual convention. WA PTA will also implement Train the Trainer workshops in late summer/early fall.

**Information and/or resources that would be helpful:** We have information, but will be developing new formats for our trainings.

**Ways to organization wants to help build awareness:** Communications to parents and advocacy around any changes that may need to be addressed.

**Issues around Common Core that need to be addressed:** Myth busting. We should not be afraid to move through implementation in order to achieve the Career and College Ready goals. Timelines should not be delayed, but the cut score for graduation may need to be adjusted annually as our students get up to speed with the content. We need to make sure parents know about the formative assessments that are available to teachers.

# School's Out Washington

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**Common Core focus:** Communication and training in community-based organizations, afterschool and rural communities and families.

**Information and/or resources that would be helpful:** Materials for very basic level of understanding of our education system and what parents can do to help their children; standardization of toolkits and other materials.

**Issues around Common Core that need to be addressed:** How to "help" struggling students.

# Stand for Children

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**Common Core focus:** A leading member of the Ready WA coalition.

**Information and/or resources that would be helpful:** Keep talking about it. Informal conversation with members, or a conference call/webinar.

**Issues around Common Core that need to be addressed:** Testing.

# Tabor 100

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**Common Core focus:** Communicating through meetings and newsletter

**Information and/or resources that would be helpful:** A simple 1-sheet.

**Issues around Common Core that need to be addressed:** The achievement gap is the primary concern of the community.

# Teach for America

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**Common Core focus:**

Their TLD team works with teachers who are implementing Common Core standards to build curriculum around the standards, and track student progress according to CCSS outcomes. Teachers also focus on outreach to families.

**Information and/or resources that would be helpful:** Feedback from others about how they can build awareness of Common Core with the broader community. ESN could present during summer programming events and answer questions about implementation, and provide continued conversations and resources.

**Ways to organization wants to help build awareness:** Offer time for breakout sessions to specifically address Common Core during events that we have scheduled

**Issues around Common Core that need to be addressed:** Families are most concerned about how their individual children are affected; and teachers are concerned about how to implement with fidelity.

# Teachers United

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**Common Core focus:** None at this time.

**Ways to build awareness:** Report what is working and how to continuously improve the implementation.

# Treehouse

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**Common Core focus:** Communicate to middle and high school youth in foster care the expectations and implications of Common Core on their goals of graduating high school.

**Information and/or resources that would be helpful:** Communication tools that are designed to share with youth and their caregivers, as well as resources that clarify how Common Core supports students' postsecondary plans.

**Issues around Common Core that need to be addressed:** An understanding of how CCSS will be rolled out across the state in order to support foster care youth who have a high mobility rate so they do not run into obstacles when transitioning between school districts.

# Washington State Legislature (exact participant unidentified)

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**Common Core focus:** Communicating via replies to constituent email and questions during forums.

**Information and/or resources that would be helpful:** Need more public debates on Common Core to educate people on what it is and what it isn't. Help start education campaign with anti-CCSS groups like Tea Party.

**Issues around Common Core that need to be addressed:** Clarify for the general public what "aligned with Common Core" means, scope of standards (e.g. Social Studies), and their limited role in prescribing curriculum, teaching methods, and grading policy.

## WTIA

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**Common Core focus:** None at this time.

**Issues around Common Core that need to be addressed:** An increase of programming requirements.