



## CURRICULUM FEED - AUGUST 2010

I hope this "Feed" finds educators enjoying the adventure of a well-deserved vacation. I encourage you to invest a little time to read our August edition of the Curriculum Feed. Forward it to a colleague and encourage them to join California ASCD. Applications and benefits for new and renewing memberships are posted on our website ([click here](#)). Your membership supports our mission of promoting exemplary practices to ensure that all learners reach their full potential.



Check our website for events planned throughout the year. Thanks you for your ongoing support,

[Mike Hendricks](#)  
CASCD President

### Common Standards Would Overhaul Reading Lessons

Think of what you've read in recent days, and the list might include a Facebook post about a friend's Grand Tetons vacation, an online review of the Droid X phone and an explanation of why your insurance isn't covering your latest doctor's visit. Yet children in school read mostly fiction, from *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to *Macbeth*.

In a few years, K-12 students' reading lists may expand to include more of that other stuff: more multimedia texts, scientific and technical articles, persuasive arguments and other nonfiction-and fewer storybooks and novels.

On Aug. 2, the California state Board of Education will consider this major shift in how public schools teach reading when it votes on a controversial set of national Common Core Standards. [Read more - Education Week 7.26](#)

### Engagement increases when academics are linked to careers

A high-school reform effort in California known as Linked Learning is helping students achieve more by linking academic courses to careers. At one academy, an average

Join Our Mailing List!

#### Quick Links

**EDUCATION PARTNERS**  
[ACSA](#) | [CUE](#) | [TICAL](#) [ASCD](#)

**CORPORATE PARTNERS**  
[Houghton Mifflin Renaissance Learning](#)  
[Holt McDougal](#)  
[Concordia University](#)  
[SMART Technologies](#)

#### SPECIAL OFFER



California ASCD pleased to pass along a special offer. Enjoy **FULL** access to all digital editions of [Education Leadership](#), the flagship publication of **ASCD**, including back issues from Sep 2009.

[click here](#)

**Improving Student Achievement**  
**FREE E-Book**

[Tech & Learning Magazine](#) in partnership with CTB McGraw-Hill provides a series of FREE e-

student said she became more engaged in lessons that combined rigorous academic courses with field trips that were focused on careers in education. Educators say the program is successful because students can see their academic lessons at work in the real world. [SF Chronicle \(7.25\)](#)

## Curriculum Snack: Collaboration Improves Satisfaction

Increased teacher collaboration has the potential to improve school climate and teacher career satisfaction, according to the most recent MetLife Survey of the American Teacher: Collaborating for Student Success. Two-thirds of teachers who responded to the annual survey (67 percent) believe that increased collaboration among teachers and school leaders would greatly improve student achievement. [Read more survey results.](#)



## Digital Snack: Use Twitter to Grow Your PLN

For many people, Twitter conjures up the worst of the internet: disjointed, meaningless phrases, unrecognizable abbreviations, and endless drivel about where someone's getting their double mocha today.

## So, Why Tweet?!?!

For the inquisitive educator, there are some jewels herein that can lead to stimulating discussions, new resources, and an ongoing supportive network. You just have to know where to look ... [click here - Edutopia](#)

## Welding Technology with Ag

California high-school teacher Danny Silva was chosen as a presenter for the [Google Teacher Academy](#) in London to share his techniques for integrating technology into his courses in agriculture. "Agriculture is hands-on education, and sometimes that can be dirty," Silva said. "That's the same as technology, because sometimes technology can malfunction, but that's when the real learning happens." [Merced Sun-Star \(7.27\)](#)

## Recommended Reads: Interactive Lecture - engage students, deepen comprehension



Harvey F. Silver and Matthew J. Perini, have recently developed a new Strategic Teacher PLC Guide focused on the Interactive Lecture. Their latest book teaches educators how to improve their students' abilities to think actively about the content of a lecture and lock the critical information in their memories. It explores how teachers can

plan and evaluate lessons, as well as review and utilize the student work that results. [Read sample chapters](#)

books. This timely issue is on Professional Development and Informed Instruction. Registration requires ([click here](#)).

## Budget Updates

Our [ACSA](#) partners make it easy to stay connected with the latest on news about California education budget. Stay informed and use your voice. [Click here](#)

## Creativity Crisis

Since then, creativity scores have consistently inched downward. It is the scores of younger children in America from K-6 for whom the decline is most serious. Find out why and what can be done in the July 19 issue of [Newsweek](#) ([Newsweek article](#))

## Mentoring for Creativity

Read [Sandra Miller's blog post](#) in [TICAL](#). "As we enter the 2nd decade of the 21st Century the restrictive chains of NCLB will loosen and students will be more often invited to engage in work that is creative." She references the work of [Daniel Pink](#) ([A Whole New Mind, Drive](#)) and [David Kelly](#) ([Design Thinking](#))

## High Schools narrow College-Access Gap

While college attendance is improving, enrollment rates among low-income students lag behind. By 12th grade these students are less likely than peers to earn a bachelor's degree. These students are not academically prepared, lack awareness of entrance procedures. This [WestEd](#)

Send a personal review of a recent book you recommend ... [click here](#).

special report provides practical solutions. [Special Report from WestEd](#)

## Education in Arts boosts 21<sup>st</sup> century skills

Working with national arts organizations, the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21) has developed a first-of-its-kind Arts skills map that clearly defines how arts education promotes key 21st-century skills.

The map, the fifth in a series of core content maps from P21 (others include Geography, Science, Social Studies, and English), gives examples how critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration, and creativity and innovation (P21's "four Cs") can be fused within arts curricula (including dance, music, theater, and visual and media arts).

## CALIFORNIA CURRICULUM NIBBLES

- Update on SB 1381, changing **kinder start date**, comments requested ... [ACSA](#)
- Education **Grants** for 2010-11 ... [Tech & Learning](#)
- California **school year shrinks** as budget crisis grows ... [SF Chronicle \(7.19\)](#)
- Pajaro Valley **leverage digital media** to maximize learning ... [TICAL \(7.12\)](#)
- **The California 1000**, schools marked failure yield open enrollment ... [CSBA \(7.20\)](#)
- \$71 million stimulus **money sat idle** for a year ... [California Watch \(7.26\)](#)
- **Success with EL** students in San Diego ... [SD Union-Tribune \(7.8\)](#)
- A **major re-org** for Fremont High in LA USD ... [LA Times \(7.7\)](#)
- California makes **final cut** for RTTT federal grant ... [NY Times \(7.28\)](#)



Thank you Corporate Sponsors for your continued commitment to students and educators in California. We greatly appreciate your sponsorship.

Email [Kathleen McCreery](#) (Membership and Governance Chair) to become a valued partner.

[Join us or Renew your membership Today!](#)

Follow us on 