

## English Language Arts (ELA) Collaborative

The ELA Collaborative is composed of member states from across the country that come together to leverage their collective expertise to support effective implementation of college- and career-ready ELA/literacy standards. They share best practices and create high-quality tools and resources for use across the states.

Meetings connect members with each other, with experts in the field, and with content that they can bring back to their states to share with teachers and inform their practices. The meetings pursue priorities identified by members, such as high-quality instructional materials for ELA, ELA assessments, current literacy research, equity, and disciplinary literacy.

### 2018-2019 Highlights:

- Annie Holmes, CCSSO Chief Equity Officer and 2017 National Teacher of the Year Sydney Chaffee led a discussion on CCSSO's equity commitments.
- Jill Harrison Berg led a conversation about equity and literacy with members focused on how state actions on CCSSO's equity commitments might transform literacy at the school and district levels.
- Discussions on each commitment of the [Leading for Equity](#) document to strategize on how they impact literacy in members work and at the school and district levels.
- Diane Kern and Rita Bean, lead writers of the [Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals document](#), led the members through an examination of the [International Literacy Association's new Diversity and Equity standards](#).
- Ernest Morrell, Director, Notre Dame Center for Literacy Education & Professor of English and Africana Studies, led a session on equity through texts with Barbara Smith, American Reading Company and other partners.
- Cross collaborative work with the Science Collaborative on literacy in the Next Generation Science Standards and *Crosscutting Concepts to Prompt Student Responses Paper*.
- Recipient state members of Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy grants presented and then led group discussions to brainstorm state literacy plan drafts and/or revise their plans.

### 2019-2020 Goals

CCSSO believes that it is incumbent on states to set high expectations for student success by creating opportunities and removing barriers. ELA is working towards this vision by providing states the ability to ensure their teachers have access to high-quality, standards-aligned curriculum frameworks, instructional resources, and professional development. ELA members tend to be literacy and English Language Arts specialists within their respective state education agencies. This year, the ELA Collaborative will:

- Promote engagement with the Navigating Text Complexity Website.
- Promote equity through literacy by examining how SEAs can lead and support all students (e.g., diversity in selection of texts, diversity in selection of teams at the state and local level who determine curricula and materials)

- Learn from experts and researchers in the field and from each other to better connect state efforts to support educators and the implementation of high-quality, standards-aligned instruction in ELA.

## **Anchor documents**

### **[Navigating Text Complexity Website](#)**

#### **Biography of Advisor:**

**Cindy Parker** has been an educator for 30 years, serving as a middle and high school ELA teacher, and retired from the Kentucky Department of Education, where she held various roles, including literacy coordinator, grant coordinator, and director of the Division of Next Generation Professionals. She has a BA in English from the University of Kentucky, MA from Eastern KY University, and earned National Board Certification in Adolescent/Young Adult English language arts. She is a past-president of the Kentucky Reading Association, International Literacy Association (ILA) member, served on the Common Core State Standards Committee of ILA, a committee that revised the ILA Standards for Literacy Professionals, and is a Kentucky State Literacy team member. She is an adjunct instructor at the University of Kentucky in the College of Education and works for the Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative as the Special Projects Coordinator.

#### **CCSSO Liaison:**

**Shannon Glynn Thomas** is the Director of College and Career Ready Standards at the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). In this role, she leads the Council's work to uphold the fidelity and intent of the Common Core State Standards and promote sharing and collaboration across states and national organizations with regard to college and career readiness. Shannon leads CCSSO's work on high-quality instructional materials and aligned professional development, managing a network of seven states that are working to increase access and use of standards aligned, high-quality materials. She also manages a network of Chief Academic Officers and Chief Talent Officers and oversees work related to standards aligned instruction in the early grades. Shannon has worked extensively in education policy at the federal, state and local level. Prior to joining CCSSO, Shannon worked for Congressman Ron Kind, serving as an education policy legislative assistant and as an associate at a small policy firm managing education non-profit clients.

#### **2018-19 State Members Included:**

DoDEA, IL, IA, KY, ME, MD, MI, MO, NE, NC, OH, OR, SC, SD, TN, USVI, WA, WY

#### **2018-19 Partners Included:**

College Board, Curriculum Associates, Edreports, MetaMetrics, NWEA, Pearson, Reading Recovery Council





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