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Date: Thu, 3/8/2012 9:44:59 AM

Subject: FW: A Strong State Role: A Rubric for Improving Common Core Implementation Efforts

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March 2012

Dear Friends,

The wide adoption of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) represents an unprecedented opportunity for American public schools: For the first time, states will share a common platform on which they can collaborate and compare achievement, and students in nearly every state will be held to standards designed to prepare them for 21st century demands of college and careers and the expectations of top-performing nations.

But while we believe the acceptance of these new standards is a turning point in public education, we also know that simply adopting them will be insufficient. Success in each state will hinge on how well the standards serve as drivers of a whole suite of aligned policies and resources, teacher tools and materials, student supports, accountability systems and stakeholder engagement efforts.

To assist states in articulating the very best implementation plans for CCSS, [Education First](#) --in partnership with [Achieve](#)-- has created the "[Common Core State Standards Implementation Rubric and Self-Assessment Tool.](#)" The tool offers a detailed rubric showing the specific state leadership roles and activities that will be essential to helping educators and students succeed with the new standards, along with examples of promising state approaches.

The rubric builds on-- and was informed by-- "[Preparing for Change,](#)" our January 2012 report prepared with the [Editorial Projects in Education Research Center](#). That study catalogued the status of state plans to align teacher professional development, curricular resources and instructional materials and teacher evaluation systems to the new standards-- and found few states yet have fully developed plans in these areas.

Education First was pleased to develop this tool with Achieve, and it will be used for the first time by 21 state teams meeting this week at the PARCC Transition and Implementation Institute in Baltimore. But this tool is for all states-- we plan to circulate it widely and want it to be a helpful tool for leaders in both PARCC and Smarter Balanced states to adjust their plans, strengthen their approaches, and ensure educators have the resources and skills to succeed.

We welcome your questions and comments.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Vranek, Founding Partner

Susan Bodary, Partner

Marc Frazer, Partner

Bill Porter, Partner

and the rest of the Education First [team](#)

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