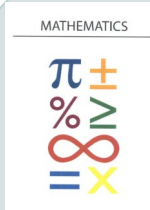


## Math E-Alert

From the Academic Office  
Standards, Curriculum, and Assessment

Date: September 15, 2015

### Welcome Back: Model Curriculum Update



The model curriculum for Geometry and Algebra 2 was completed during this past year. Several educators spent time this summer being trained on this curricula. As a result of this training final edits and revisions are in process. The entire curriculum will be available by January, 2016. Currently, the beginning units of the curriculum are posted to both, the [ConnecticutCoreStandards](#) Web site and the [CTHSS Moodle](#). Guest login using the password “CSDE” on the Moodle site will provide access to the unit overviews and student activities. Access to secure materials such as answer keys, exit slip and assessments can be requested by e-mailing [Jennifer.michalek@ct.gov](mailto:Jennifer.michalek@ct.gov).

### Happy Retirement

Gail Pagano is retiring after serving as a Mathematics Assessment Consultant with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), Bureau of Student Assessment since August 2005. Her primary responsibilities were the mathematics portion of the Connecticut Mastery Test and the transition to and implementation of the Smarter Balanced assessments. Prior to joining the CSDE, Gail was a mathematics and science teacher at Cromwell Middle School for 31 years. She also served as the K-8 Mathematics Coordinator.

Gail was an active member of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Item Development Work Group beginning in January 2011. She assumed the role of co-chair of the Item Development/Performance Task Work Group in July 2012. The Item Development/Performance Task (ID/PT) Work Group was comprised of consortium state members who were responsible for the development of the items and tasks for the Smarter Balanced summative and interim assessments.

Gail also served as Connecticut’s Smarter Balanced K-12 State Lead and was a member of the Smarter Balanced Executive Committee.

After 41 years in education, Gail will be greatly missed. Her contributions to students and educators across the state are vast and her service is greatly appreciated.

### Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

#### The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST):

This is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government, specifically for K-12 mathematics and science (including computer science) teaching. This award recognizes those teachers who develop and implement a high-quality instructional program that is informed by content knowledge and enhances student learning.

Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science (including computer science) education. Congratulations to the 2015 7-12 mathematics state finalists: Donna Busa, Grade 8 teacher at The Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts Magnet School in Hartford; and Elizabeth Capasso, Grade 8 teacher at the Jettie Tisdale School in Bridgeport.

Nominations for the 2016 awards, which recognize teachers at the elementary level Grades K-6 will open in the fall, with applications due in the spring of 2016. For more information please visit [www.paemst.org](http://www.paemst.org).

### Opportunities for Students

**Cutler-Bell Prize in High School Computing:** The Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) is pleased to announce that we are now accepting applicants for a new award aimed at recognizing talented high school students in computer science. This award seeks to promote and encourage the field of computer science, as well as to empower young and aspiring learners to pursue computer challenges outside of the traditional environment. Four winners will be selected and each will be awarded a \$10,000 prize. The application for the Cutler-Bell Prize is available now and will close on January 1, 2016.

The inaugural awards will be announced in February or March of 2016. <https://app.wizehive.com/appform/login/csta2015app>.

## Opportunities for Educators:

### **Meeting the Challenge: Connecticut Core Standards Success for English Learners and Students with Disabilities:**

The CSDE is pleased to bring back this three-module series for school teams supporting inclusive environments and standard focused instruction for English Learners (ELs) and students with disabilities. Our goal is to empower educators to implement Connecticut Core Standards aligned curriculum, instructional practices and assessments to meet the needs of a wide variety of learners. National experts in special education and English as a second language have designed a series of three professional learning modules for school teams. Interested teams should visit [http://ctcorestandards.org/?page\\_id=10207](http://ctcorestandards.org/?page_id=10207) to register.

**Interim Assessment Workshops:** The CSDE is offering one-day workshops across the state designed to support Grade 3-8 classroom teachers, instructional specialists, coaches, ELA and mathematics department chairs, and interested administrators as they become familiar with the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments. Participants will learn how to: administer the Interim Assessments for English language arts/literacy and mathematics; score student responses using anchor and training materials; use the Teacher Hand-Scoring System (THSS); understand how to interpret student scores; and use student performance reports to support instruction and augment daily formative information to gauge student progress. To register please visit [http://ctcorestandards.org/?page\\_id=9785](http://ctcorestandards.org/?page_id=9785).

**Online Professional Learning Modules:** The CSDE, in partnership with Public Consulting Group (PCG), is offering free online learning modules to support the implementation of CCS English Language Arts and Mathematics standards. Available on Pepper, PCG's interactive and collaborative professional learning platform, these modules are self-paced, collaborative and engaging. Math module 1 is a focus on the practice standards and module 2 is on the content standards. Additional online modules will be released soon. Visit [http://ctcorestandards.org/?page\\_id=9097](http://ctcorestandards.org/?page_id=9097) to see the latest offerings.

**ATOMIC Conference:** The Association of Teachers of Mathematics in Connecticut will hold their Annual Meeting & Conference on December 8, 2015, in Cromwell. For more information and to register please visit <http://www.atomicmath.org/>.

**Thirteenth International Congress on Mathematical Education:** Applications for travel grants are available at [www.nctm.org/icme13/](http://www.nctm.org/icme13/) to attend the Thirteenth International Congress on Mathematical Education (ICME-13) to be held in Hamburg, Germany from July 24-31, 2016. Application deadline is September 30, 2015. See the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) site for an application and information about the acceptance process. Please visit <http://icme13.org> for information on the Congress.

**Computer Science:** Code.org provides a complete K-12 package of computer science opportunities. All costs associated with the professional development, including half the cost of teacher stipends (except K-5 teachers), are covered by Code.org. Code.org maintains a high-quality K-12 professional development pathway, which includes teacher supports, learning platform, and course marketing materials. In exchange, Code.org wants districts to commit to the goal of access to computer science education for all students, and to continuing and sustaining the work. Commitment from 30 teachers is needed to develop a partnership with Code.org and the State of Connecticut is willing to assist in finding partner districts that will meet this requirement. Interested districts should contact [jennifer.michalek@ct.gov](mailto:jennifer.michalek@ct.gov) for more information or to express interest in the partnership.

**Digital Library Spotlight Forum:** Smarter Balanced is pleased to announce a new Digital Library Spotlight Webinar and Forum series: the Illustrative Mathematics series. Spotlight Webinars, facilitated by national experts and innovative practitioners, highlight Digital Library resources related to timely and relevant topics. Authors of the resource offer a webinar to provide an overview of the resource and highlight strategies that can be used to support teaching and learning. Participants are encouraged to try the strategies featured in the webinars in their own classrooms, then join the Spotlight Forum discussions to share their experiences with each other and provide feedback to the authors. For dates and topics use this [link](#).

**Exemplar Problem Solving for the Common Core: Performance Tasks, Rubrics and Anchor Papers, K-5:** Through the lens of problem solving, gain a firm understanding of methods to support and guide the transition to the Common Core. This session focuses on the appropriate instructional shifts and tools necessary to effectively implement the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), the underlying concepts and processes behind this teaching/learning approach, and the essentials of performance-based assessment and instruction to support the CCSS for Mathematical Content and Mathematical Practice. Exemplars math tasks, rubrics and anchor papers are incorporated throughout the workshop. This workshop is being offered on Tuesday, September 29, 2015, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at AI Prince Technical High School with lunch on your own. To register please e-mail [marion.lamprecht@ct.gov](mailto:marion.lamprecht@ct.gov).

## Stay Up to Date

The Math E-Alert is a great way to stay up-to-date on the latest math information. If you still wish to receive the Math E-Alert electronically, please contact Jennifer Michalek at [Jennifer.michalek@ct.gov](mailto:Jennifer.michalek@ct.gov) to have your name added to the distribution list.

Do not respond to this e-mail. This alert is provided for your information only. Please contact [Jennifer.michalek@ct.gov](mailto:Jennifer.michalek@ct.gov) with questions.

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