

# HOW TO USE THIS TOOL

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## A BRIDGE TO COLLABORATE

### Purpose

- We designed this tool to strengthen the role of state legislators in collaborating with other state leaders to support a successful transition to the Common Core State Standards.

### Audience

- The tool is best suited for state legislators who are familiar with the K-12 education system in their states—typically those with seats on education committees. Newly elected legislators will likely need a basic orientation to the K-12 system in their state to use this tool effectively.

### Elements

The tool includes several elements:

#### Resources

- We list a select set of **Resources** legislators can tap—and refer their constituents to—for more information about the Common Core State Standards.

#### Implementation Areas

- The tool includes a series of one-pagers on several topics: an overview of the Common Core State Standards, as well as more detailed treatments of five key areas in K-12 education that need to align to the Common Core: curriculum and instructional materials; assessment; teacher professional learning; teacher preparation; and teacher and leader effectiveness.

- Within each of these areas, we provide some **Context** for the issue and why it matters, and then offer a series of questions legislators can ask to engage in collaborative discussions with state leaders about how to work together to support successful implementation in that area.
- Depending on legislators' level of knowledge and areas of interest, they can ask their staff to address some or all of the **Staff Background** questions to get a handle on how their states approach different aspects of teaching and learning policy.
- Legislators can then draw on the **Oversight** questions to monitor the quality of the roll out of Common Core implementation in their state.
- **Authorization** questions address ways state leaders can leverage state statute to promote successful implementation.
- Finally, **Appropriations** questions can help leaders focus attention on how funding streams can be repurposed to target scarce resources on Common Core implementation.