



ELA Think Tank / Leadership

I hope 2017 has gotten off to a great start for you. I know that some districts had a snow day last week to add one more day to their Winter Break. I hope your spring semester is a rich and robust one with your students and colleagues.

News from the Office of Standards & Instructional Support

I have talked with some members of this group on the phone and/or in person about best ways to support your efforts in your schools and districts. Some of you have inquired about face-to-face meetings. I shared with a few of you about my hesitancy to have people travel to a face-to-face meeting if the primary agenda is information delivery from me. I think that need is best served via this monthly update, emails, or webinars. I am also very cognizant of the fact that for many members of this think tank / leadership group would be unable to make it to the Front Range for a two-hour meeting. (Or, if the meeting were held in Grand Junction, folks from the eastern slope would not make that drive, either.)

So I would like to hear from you. Please email me at puzick_v@cde.state.co.us. I would be interested in hearing what you would have on an agenda for a face-to-face meeting. I can think of some items – districts’ approaches to writing instruction, grammar/mechanics vertical alignment, working with multiple texts – but I am more interested in what you have on the agenda.

CDE News

Standards Review and Revision. CDE continues to develop its plan to guide the upcoming standards review and revision process and is seeking the input of all interested parties.

The department has launched an online standards review system that enables all Coloradans to provide feedback on each expectation within all 10 content areas of the Colorado Academic Standards.

CDE has extended the timeline to provide feedback to Friday, Feb. 17. The online system can be found [here](#).

Results of the survey will inform the Department’s planning for the upcoming review and revision of the standards, required by state law.

In early 2017, CDE will provide information about the timeline and phases of the standards review and revision process as well as information about how to become involved.

NCTE, CCIRA, CLAS Notes

NCTE. I received the following info from one of our NCTE members and Colorado colleagues. **If you have an interest in literacy assessment work, this would be a great committee.**

Assessment continues to inform, even drive, curricula and pedagogies. Because it influences literacy teaching and learning—across the country and across every section of the Council—literacy assessment is a shared concern and a shared challenge. This committee will have the following charge:

- To monitor developments in assessment policies and practices;
- To inform Council leaders and NCTE members, as they consider policy and advocacy, about ways assessment practices are impacting teachers.
- To identify assessment practices that support the kinds of teaching and learning that research in literacy, language arts, literature, and composition studies demonstrates as most significant and effective.
- To identify opportunities or needs for NCTE research and/or publications on literacy assessment.

K-8 literacy teachers who would be interested in working with the committee, please contact Peggy O’Neill at Poneill@loyola.edu.

CCIRA. The 50th Annual CCIRA Conference is fast approaching! Congratulations to that organization for the steady, consistent, and robust support it has provided to Colorado teachers for so long! Registration is now open for the [2017 Conference](#): “Golden Ingredients for 50 Years of Literacy,” February 4-7. What a line-up they have for speakers, authors, and sessions!

Research and Resources

With CCIRA hosting several awesome speakers, I thought I would highlight some of them and their work:

Penny Kittle: <http://pennykittle.net/>

Kelly Gallagher: <http://www.kellygallagher.org/>

Doug Fisher: <https://fisherandfrey.com/>

Donalyn Miller: <https://bookwhisperer.com/>

Nell Duke: http://www.soe.umich.edu/people/profile/duke_nell/

Jeff Anderson: <http://www.writeguy.net/>

Lester Laminack: <http://www.lesterlaminack.com/>

Follow them on Facebook or on Twitter. Their posts are always like mini-professional development sessions!

Contact Info

Please feel free to contact me at puzick_v@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6583. I would love to have feedback on the monthly e-update or hear suggestions for topics you would like to have addressed.