



ELA Think Tank / Leadership

September transitioned quickly into October; hence, we have a combined September – October update.

News from the Office of Standards & Instructional Support

Survey Monkey for ELA Think Tank Results:

Who responded:

- 53% of respondents = rural
- 27% of respondents = suburban
- 20% of respondents = urban
- 20% of respondents = teachers
- 33% of respondents = district curriculum specialists
- 20% of respondents = literacy specialists
- 07% of respondents = ELA content specialists

Topics for consideration:

- Text complexity resources
- Vocabulary resources
- Standards-based literacy instruction; [PARCC construction](#)
- [PBL, STEM initiatives and literacy instruction](#)
- Word Study at the secondary level
- Instructional practices to meet the increased challenge of CAS/CCSS

(See the document accompanying this email for the “raw data” of the Survey responses.)

CDE News

The **Every Student Succeeds Act** (ESSA) will shape our work in the future. CDE has set up an [ESSA Blog](#) to help gather and disseminate information.

CDE has been in the process of drafting its **ESSA state plan**. I know that a handful of our ELA Think Tank is serving on the [Standards Spoke Committee](#) and participating on that work. You can see the work on Colorado’s ESSA State Plan Development [here](#).

Educator Licensing has recently updated the worksheet for ELA Grades 7-12 when applicants want an additional endorsement or are seeking an alternative license. You can view the updated worksheet [here](#).

NCTE, CCIRA, CLAS Notes



CLAS: The [Colorado Language Arts Society’s 2016 Regional Fall Conference](#) is just two weeks away (October 15): “For the Love of Teaching / Reclaiming the Classroom.”

- Read the **Session Previews** [here!](#)
- See the **Schedule and register** [here](#).

This year’s speakers include **Taylor Mali, Jimmy Santiago Baca, and Sarah Brown Wessling**.



NCTE: Participate in NCTE’s “**Day on Writing**” October 20, 2016. Read more [here](#). Please let me know (send pics, too) of any activities you do in your classes, schools, and districts! #WhyIWrite

CCIRA: The [Colorado Council International Reading Association](#) is looking forward to its 2017 Conference: “Golden Ingredients for 50 Years of Literacy,” February 4-7.

Upcoming Webinar

Tuesday, October 11, I will be hosting a webinar covering PARCC test construction in English Language Arts / Literacy.

The presentation will address the PARCC **task types** and **assessment blueprints**; most importantly, the webinar will continue **our conversation on standards-based literacy instruction and on the necessity of disciplinary literacy approaches**. The webinar will be from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. **A link to the webinar will be forthcoming.**

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.