Reaching for the Stars: OER and the Common Core State Standards

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" A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines ."

-Emerson

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uaquGZKx_0&feature=youtu.be

Essential Question for Idaho:

How do OER and the CCSS represent Moonshot thinking?

Expectations

Aspirations

"We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy **but because they are hard**."

Our Educational Sputnik Moment

Why the Common Core?

- 100% of Idaho students who go on to college have passed all course work and the grade 10 ISAT test but 47% need REMEDIATION

- US ranked 25th of 34 countries in Math, 14th in Reading [2010 PISA, a test of 15 year olds]

- Thirty percent of high school graduates can't pass the U.S. military entrance exam, which is focused just on basic reading and math skills.

- Only 49 % of Employers say recent graduates are adequately prepared for the workplace [*Conservatives for Higher Standards*

Why the Common Core?

- [School Too Easy Say Students](#)

- 39 % of seniors rarely if ever write about what they read

- Only 20% of 8th graders read 20 pages or more at school or for homework

- 37% of 4th graders say Math work is often or always too EASY

- 57% of 8th graders say history work is often or always too EASY

[NAEP surveys, USA Today, Aug. 2012]

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What is the role of standards?

Origin of the Common Core State Standards

The Foundation:
Standards describe what we want students to know and be able to do - our shared vision of what skills and knowledge are important and valued

The Framing:
Curriculum is the detailed plan for how the standards are taught and in what order [not a national curriculum]

The Finish Work:
Instruction is the fine grain of how the curriculum is taught

The Inspection:
Assessment reveals level of standards mastery-An INTEGRATED system

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ELA/Literacy Shifts

➢ **Need increase in text complexity K-12**, foster close reading of these texts, and perseverance, literacy owned across all content areas

➢ Writing is primary, not secondary. **Students should write about complex texts, not their summer vacation.** Goal: foster fluent, flexible, rhetorically agile writers

➢ Creation and delivery of material orally highly valued as is collaboration with peers

➢ Strategic use of digital resources, including research skills, is highly valued

➢ Need to provide deeper learning opportunities to highest cognitive level: Creation
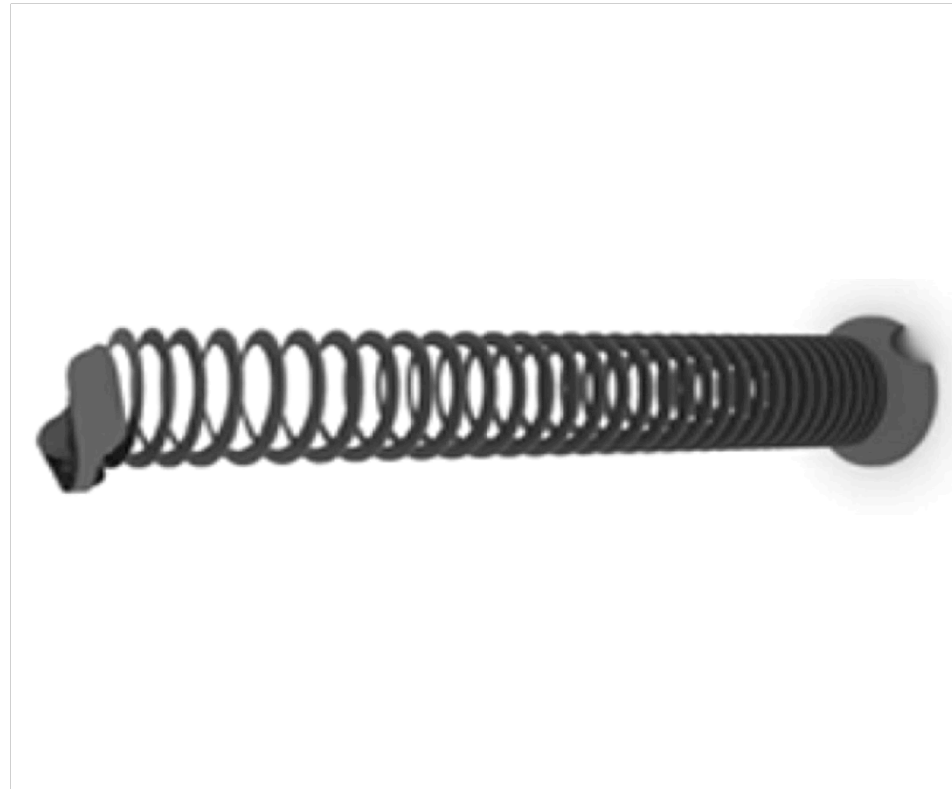
Text Complexity:

Many Students not College and Career Ready

➢ Those scoring below proficient [21] on ACT had common factor:

➢ Inability to answer questions associated with complex texts [Seen across all subgroups]

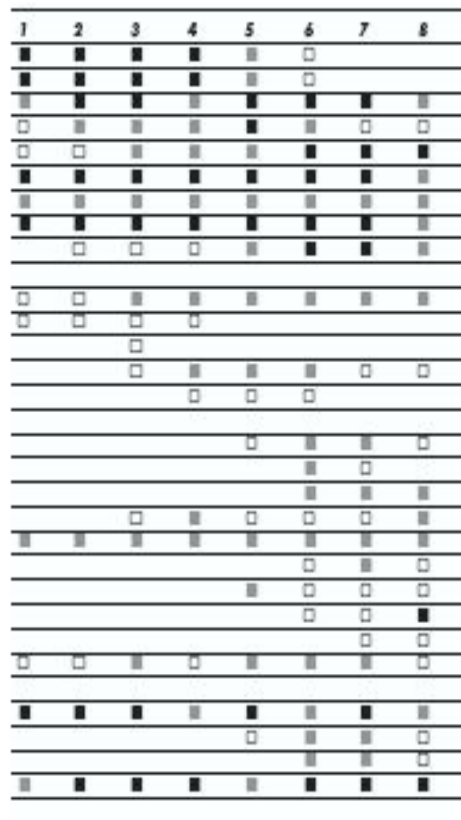# Math Instruction:
The Horizontal Slinky

The shape of math US vs. Top Achievers

Mathematics topics intended at each grade by at least two-thirds of A+ countries

Mathematics topics intended at each grade by at least two-thirds of 21 U.S. states

Mathematics Core Concepts

➢ Fewer concepts, deeper dive into each

➢ Emphasis on conceptual and procedural understanding-not rote memorization of formulas

➢ Clear Learning Progression across grades

➢ Emphasize Math Practices-skills needed to indicate proficiency:
  – Make sense of problems and persevere in solving
  – Model with mathematics
  – Construct viable arguments, critique other's reasoning
  – Reason abstractly and quantitatively

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OER In Idaho

- How much money is spent on k-12 curricular resources per year in US?

- Free digital and $5.00 printable versions; we live in the digital world.

- Ease of adaptation, remixing, local control

- No more waiting 6 years to get updated resources

- Move into the Digital Age

OER, the common core and the specter of the dreaded 'national curriculum'

Another Problem with OER...
the Morass

Lessons from the 2nd most conservative state in the US

- Emphasize *local control* aspects of OER ; one choice of many; we don't create winners

- Leverage state policies on curricular review; all materials treated the same

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The OER Collaborative

- Complete set of K-12 materials for ELA and Math aligned to CCSS; year long, but broken down into units; pushing the envelope of digital interactivity

- Creative Commons licensing

- Combines resources with instruction

- RFP process underway

- Utah, Washington and Idaho original states

RFP Informed by Educator Survey

Teachers desire…

➢ Scoring rubrics, annotated student samples, assessments

➢ Text sets and problem sets

➢ Classroom activities and differentiated resources

Teacher Input Throughout Process

- Scoring RFP bids

- Scoring rapid prototype units

- Providing ongoing feedback during full development phase

- Support ongoing updates to resources in subsequent years

Classroom Tech

- FY12 to present: Over $32 million
- $6 Million in tech pilots
- Discovery Education Digital Content
- Integrated Professional Development
- Online Course Portal
- Support from Non Profits
- ConnectED

Bandwidth

- ## Idaho Education Network
  - Connectivity to all districts, all high schools
- ## Wireless in all high schools
- ## Governor's Education Task Force:
  - Connect ALL schools, and provide wifi
- ## E-rate
  - ??

Next Steps for States

- Identify the political environment

- Define and adopt definitions around instructional materials

- Define and adopt policies around Creative Commons

- Measure the landscape for district choice (local control)

- Work with stakeholder groups to support with adequate technologies and funding

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