BRITAIN’S BEST TEACHERS
Great Teachers: Attracting, Training and Retaining the Best
House of Commons Education Committee, May 2012

The British Parliament explores teacher quality in this report from the House of Commons Education Committee. The committee examined the characteristics that define the best teachers and how to develop policies that will attract those candidates to the profession, train and develop them, and retain them. Recommendations include increased research into the characteristics of effective teaching; developing partnerships with local universities, colleges, and schools; and a formal and flexible career structure for teachers, with different pathways for those who wish to remain classroom teachers or become teaching specialists, linked to pay and conditions and professional development.
LEARNING STANDARDS
Instructional Supports: The Missing Piece in State Education Standards
The Education Trust, March 2012

The transition from current state learning standards to college- and career-ready standards being rolled out across the nation is more than a subtle shift. The Education Trust’s report offers insights about the best ways states can support our nation’s educators in their efforts to help students meet high academic standards. Key points:

• Instructional supports guide how academic standards are taught and translated into student learning;
• Teachers want a clear curricular framework, a rich array of teaching resources, and ideas for assignments that tap higher-order thinking; and
• As states implement new standards, they must simultaneously provide teachers with the tools to teach them effectively.


INSIDE COMMON CORE
Common Core Implementation Video Series
Council of Chief State School Officers

These videos were developed to help diverse groups — educators, policymakers, and parents — better understand the breadth and depth of Common Core State Standards and how they will improve teaching, make classrooms better, create shared expectations, and cultivate lifelong learning for all students. The segments are organized into separate mathematics and English language arts sections, and demonstrate critical concepts related to each. Videos can be used to jumpstart conversations about policy goals, orient staff to new classroom demands, assess professional development tools, create instructional materials, and galvanize support for schools.

www.ccsso.org/Resources/Digital_Resources/Common_Core_Implementation_Video_Series.html

CALIFORNIA TEACHERS
Greatness by Design: Supporting Outstanding Teaching to Sustain a Golden State
California Department of Education, September 2012

A report by California’s Task Force on Educator Excellence, led by Linda Darling-Hammond and Chris Steinhauser, calls for sweeping improvements in how teachers are recruited, trained, mentored, and evaluated. According to the report, the state needs to develop a diverse, high-quality workforce of teachers and principals, create quality induction programs that can help teachers improve early in their careers, and provide ongoing training and support. The report examines how to provide a career development framework that fosters growth and leadership for teachers throughout their careers and takes a close look at how to improve evaluation, including how to collaborate with teachers and incorporate valid measures of student learning.

www.cde.ca.gov/eo/in/ee.asp

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