



CLIENT QUOTE

"Teachers are key stakeholders in the implementation of Common Core Standards and we need to leverage their expertise and apply what they've learned as early implementers. As we grapple with ways to implement the Common Core Standards throughout all Arizona schools, we value their recommendations that will foster the environment necessary to ensure successful implementation of Common Core Standards, promote the development of professional knowledge and expertise of teachers, and maintain high expectations and academic achievement on the part of Arizona's students."



-- Arizona State Superintendent John Huppenthal

Arizona Charter Teachers Guide to Common Core Implementation

CASE STUDY

Arizona's charter school teachers were early adopters of new state education standards. In a move to put substance ahead of politics, the The VIVA Project and the Arizona Charter Schools Association asked all Arizona charter schools' classroom teachers to share the early insights on how to move to new educational standards statewide. Powered by an innovative online platform and expert facilitation --the VIVA Idea Exchange-- these teachers developed a set of actionable recommendations focused on the essentials for any shift in educational standards:

- Fostering the environment necessary to ensure successful implementation of Common Core Standards
- Promoting the development of professional knowledge and expertise of teachers
- Maintaining high expectations and academic achievement for all of Arizona's students
- Developing ongoing communication with parents, a key stakeholder

THE NUMBERS

Partner: Arizona Charter Schools Association

Geographic Reach: teachers from charter schools across Arizona

Idea Exchange Participants: nearly 200

Timeframe start to finish: 35 days

Number of recommendations: 9

AS A RESULT:

These recommendations were presented to: Arizona Superintendent John Huppenthal and State Board President Jaime Molera on June 12, 2002. As a result:

- The state immediately made changes to the way it did community outreach, using teacher input to directly shape public information
- The state commissioner made changes to the website based on teacher feedback about how best to explain Common Core and why the standards are important
- Through working with VIVA, the association was able to build its direct relationship with teachers and double their membership from 1,000 to 2,000

VIVA IDEA EXCHANGE DISCUSSION QUESTION

Arizona charter schools teachers have been at the cutting edge of implementing Common Core in their classrooms and have powerful insights and knowledge to share with all teachers, public and charter. In response to VIVA's carefully crafted questions, they spent hundreds of hours sharing their first-hand experiences transitioning to Common Core Standards and recommending solutions to effective implementation:

- As a charter teacher, what are you doing in your classroom and school to prepare for this transition?
- What more needs to be done on a classroom, school and state level to ensure that the new Common Core Standards lead to higher student achievement?

KEY OUTCOMES

This VIVA Idea Exchange mined insights from teachers' actual experience implementing higher content standards offered clear direction about tackling scale of such change. They expressed urgency of making parents & public partners in the transition, wise and prescient counsel, in light of subsequent political events.

TO READ A COMPLETE REPORT ON THIS VIVA IDEA EXCHANGE, go to: http://vivateachers.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/VIVA-AZReport_FinalR_for-web.pdf

3023 N Clark Street #763
Chicago, IL 60657
thevivaproject.com
info@thevivaproject.com
@theVIVAproject

