



**"Bringing the Common Core to Life"**  
**David Coleman - Founder, Student Achievement Partners**  
**Chancellors Hall - State Education Building - Albany, NY**  
**April 28, 2011**

**Part 10**

**Conclusions from Senior Deputy Commissioner King**

Let me start if I might with a reflection on words from the text that was before us today from Letter from a Birmingham Jail. It's one of my favorite sentences in the English language.

Human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts of men willing to be co-workers with God, and without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation.

The work we began today is for me a part of an agenda about the future of our nation's economy, the future of our nation's democracy and fundamentally about civil rights. College and career readiness isn't for some, it is for all. Our obligation is to ensure that that is a gift that we give through our education system to all of our students. So today is not about the end of the work of building the common core but the beginning of our work in delivering the common core to our students. Dr. King's point about human progress is that it takes, as Ken Slentz said, hard work and so that is our work, our work at the Department, our work in districts, our work in schools, and ultimately our work in classrooms. So we have a lot of hard work ahead of us.

We start first with today's conversation, our first opportunity to engage as an education community in New York State with these common core standards and to grapple with them deeply in the form of actual text, actual math problems. We now move into the next stage which is to engage all of our colleagues in this conversation and it won't be a short conversation. It will be a long conversation that will take us many years to move towards real change in how we do teaching and learning throughout the state. The next step in the conversation, we've invited and I will invite again districts and schools and teachers across the state to send us exemplar modules, the good work that is happening in excellent schools across the state and excellent classrooms across the state that reflects the instructional philosophy and approach of the common core. We've asked for those materials so that we can begin to share them with the broader educational community.

In August we will gather our network teams, the field workers of this new civil rights movement of the common core standards. We will gather our network teams in August from across the state to engage in a conversation about three things. One, about the common core standards, about what college and



career readiness really means in English Language Arts and math although we know college and career readiness means more than that. We begin with English Language Arts and literacy and math. We will engage those network teams in August in a conversation about data driven instruction and the inquiry process. How do we ensure that teachers and classrooms and schools across the state, our principals, our superintendents, are engaged in a continuous conversation about student learning and how their work can advance that student learning? Looking closely at the questions students struggle with, the text that they can't quite figure out and figuring out how do we get better at teaching and learning? We will also engage those network teams in August in a conversation about teacher and leader effectiveness. We've spent the last year engaged with stakeholders from across the state in a conversation about how do we evaluate teachers and principals? How do we understand if they are making a maximum contribution to student achievement? Teacher and principal evaluation is a controversial subject but the goal of the evaluation system is to improve teaching and learning and we will engage the network teams in that conversation in August. We will look together at video tape of instruction and ask ourselves how closely does that instruction look like the kind of instruction that David Coleman so wonderfully described today?

And then the network teams will go out. They will be the field workers of our new civil rights movement. They will go out and they will work together, arm in arm, hand in hand with teachers and principals and superintendents and assistant superintendents for instruction and parents and students to change teaching and learning for the better. Again, we have excellent examples all across the state of great work that is going on and we are going to leverage that. And so over the course of the next school year what we will ask is that in every classroom around the state, this is not a mandate but a request that in every classroom around the state teachers try to do one common core aligned unit each semester as a way to really delve into the common core.

And then in 2012-13, we will then align our assessment system to the common core and our assessments will look much more like the work that we did together today. We will also by 2012-13 be able to make available for teachers and schools across the state more exemplar units. So we will start with a small number of exemplar units at elementary, middle and high school levels in English Language Arts and literacy and in math that we'll make available this August, we'll start there. But we'll build on those exemplar units so that by the time we enter the 2012-13 school year, we will enter with rich common core aligned modules in English Language Arts and mathematics and the arts for 2012-13.

And then we will build towards in 2013-14 a second set of modules in science and social studies, again aligned with the common core and aligned more deeply with college and career readiness.



That is the work ahead of us. What we know is that it's a huge challenge for everyone in this room, for every staff member at the Department, for every district, for every superintendent, every principal, every teacher. That is our challenge, but that's the challenge we begin to embark on today.

It is a pleasure to have David Coleman's extraordinary leadership in today's conversation, a pleasure to have the Commissioner's extraordinary leadership in bringing us to this point of embarking on this journey together.

Please use our web site as a source for continuing information. There will be additional resources appearing in the days ahead on how we will tackle this challenge together.

Thank you for your time and attention. It's an honor to work alongside you.