



ELA Think Tank / Leadership

What a month! I hope your first quarter with students and colleagues has been fantastic. I have had a great month working with your colleagues from around the state in a variety of ways. The Standards Review and Revise Committee (see below for more info) is completing its proposed revisions to the ELA Standards. The Committee's commitment to this work has been nothing short of stellar. In addition, I had the chance to collaborate with literacy and ELA teachers in Wray, Colorado as they refine their curriculum and instructional practices in a standards-based environment. Finally, in mid-September, 24 teachers from around the state came to Denver to participate in the development of assessment items for the CMAS in literacy and English Language Arts. (If you would be interested in being involved in assessment work, [please follow this link](#).)

I make mention of these efforts for a couple of reasons. First, the collaborative spirit among Colorado teachers is so very impressive. Secondly, the critical thinking and commitment to bring the best to Colorado students is second-to-none; whether it is in developing assessment items, honing instructional practice, or creating curriculum, Colorado educators bring their best thinking to the table each and every day. And, finally, I simply wanted to say "thank you."

News from the Office of Standards & Instructional Support

The major news is the work done by the [Standards Review and Revise Committee](#). The [Reading, Writing, and Communicating \(RWC\) Committee](#) met throughout the summer (virtually and face-to-face) and again on September 18th. The Committee's **proposed revisions** will be published for public review beginning on October 16. The public review window will be open until November 27. News of their work may be found on the [Committee's website](#).

NCTE, CCIRA, CLAS Notes

CLAS: A little more than a week until the [Colorado Language Arts Society's 2017 Regional Fall Conference: Teaching in the Balance](#). What a great line-up of keynote speakers: [Matt de la Pena](#), [Dave Stuart, Jr.](#), and poet [Toluwanimi Obiwole](#). See the [session previews](#) here. **Conference date is October 7, 2017.**

REGISTER HERE: [Regional Fall Conference](#)

CCIRA: The [Colorado Council International Reading Association](#) is looking forward to its 2017 Conference: "[Literacy Renaissance: Invention, Intention, and Close Study](#)," February 7-10. From their website: "The inspiration for the theme of the 2018 CCIRA Conference is Leonardo DaVinci. He was an artist and a scientist, an inventor and a passionately curious human being. Like DaVinci, educators are driven to learn, to explore, and to continuously work to master our craft. We believe there is joy in challenge. We understand that details matter. The how and the why are as important as the what. We knew we get better at teaching (and learning) by what we do on purpose."

Research & Resources

Vocabulary instruction continues to be a hot topic in literacy research! Here is a small sampling of resources you may find valuable.

- [What's Hot In Adolescent Literacy: Vocabulary](#)
- [Components of Effective Vocabulary Instruction](#)
- [Effective Vocabulary Instruction](#)
- [Solving Word Meanings: Engaging Strategies for Vocabulary Development](#)
- [3 Vocabulary Strategies Help Decipher Unknown Words](#)
- [The Art and Science of Teaching / Six Steps to Better Vocabulary Instruction](#)

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.