



Summer Institute Readings

We are pleased to present background readings for CCSSO's 2005 Summer Institute. Additional resources are available on CCSSO's website at:

www.ccsso.org/projects/Membership_Meetings/Summer_Institute

This year's Summer Institute is designed to help chief state school officers collectively think about and explore the fundamental shifts to the structure of our economy and the dramatic new challenges to democracy that we face and which will impact the role and vision of our public education system. How do we ensure that all children have opportunities to succeed and become productive members of our democratic society in the face of these dramatic changes?

The Summer Institute begins by investigating the underlying premise that our expectations for student performance are too often inadequate and, as a result, we must adjust our thinking. Following up on Robert Reich's session at the 2004 Summer Institute and building on Thomas Friedman's insights in *The World is Flat*, our program starts with an investigation into:

- 1) what students really do need to know and be able to do; and
- 2) what learning theory tells us our system of education must do to help them get there.

We will also spend time diagnosing our implementation of standards-based reform over the past fifteen years to determine the adjustments necessary to achieve 21st century expectations.

We then will use this new vision of student achievement as a way back into the conversations around high school redesign. We are in general agreement that whatever successes we have had in standards-based reform, we still have un-met challenges at the high school level. Therefore, we'll ask:

What is the unique *state* role in **high school redesign** toward the goal of *all* **children** achieving to **21st century expectations**?

The Summer Institute will address these major topics through general sessions and a series of small group discussions organized around four themes:

- Aligning and Integrating Systems
- Engaging Stakeholders
- Educator Capacity
- Evaluating Results

Look familiar? It should. After serious study, we have developed a framework that is identical to the theory underlying standards-based reform! What makes us think we can get it right this time around? What makes this the right time to redesign high school to meet these bold new goals? What role can state education agencies play in this work?

We hope that the 2005 CCSSO Summer Institute will help us find some answers to these important questions—and that these Readings will help you prepare for the cutting edge discussions in Semiahmoo, Washington.

If you have any questions about these readings, please contact Circe Stumbo at circes@ccsso.org.