

Ways to Get Ready for the Common Core

Douglas B. Reeves, Ph.D.

- 1 Do compare your present standards to the Common Core – identify what will not change and where the greatest changes will be for your particular grade levels and location.
- 2 Don't settle for off-the-shelf "teacher-proof" curricula and assessments.
- 3 Do engage teachers in the process of unwrapping the standards and designing rigorous curricula and assessments.
- 4 Don't settle for fiction, fantasy, and personal narrative as the majority of student writing assignments.
- 5 Do increase significantly the amount of informational writing by students, starting in kindergarten.
- 6 Don't expect English/Language Arts faculty to bear the sole responsibility for literacy.
- 7 Do engage every faculty member in every subject at every grade level in a universal commitment to student literacy.
- 8 Don't try to do it all at once or all alone.