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# Preface

**T**he Common Core State Standards (National Governors Association, 2010) represent a dramatic shift in beliefs about the purposes of American schooling. If all students are to achieve the Common Core State Standards, schools must thoughtfully and thoroughly reexamine and change curriculum, instruction, and school structures. This book provides concrete suggestions to help schools achieve this goal.

This book provides a comprehensive approach that integrates the standards of the Core with strategies that ensure that equity is front and center as schools and teachers engage in Core implementation. The authors provide practical strategies that teachers can use based on four essential principles—acceleration, critical thinking, equity, and support (ACES)—in order to transform instruction to meet the requirements of the new standards. These strategies are applied and developed in model lessons linked to Common Core and Knowledge and Skills for University Success (KSUS) standards.

This book is designed to serve as a guide to K–12 educators, both teachers and school leaders, who wish to redesign learning experiences so that all of their students, including their English language learners and students with disabilities, will not be left behind as they seek to bring all students to college and career readiness.