The Common Core Challenge

Ensuring that implementation of the common core does not derail existing efforts to improve schooling requires that at least 17 separate decisions be made correctly.

Professional Development
1. Teacher preparation institutions agree to teach prospective educators the common core.
2. Districts appropriate funding for new professional development resources.
3. State education agencies (SEAs) and local education agencies (LEAs) vet and select new professional development resources.
4. SEAs, LEAs, and individual schools pilot and check on the quality of new professional development resources.
5. SEAs, LEAs, and individual schools take new professional development resources to scale.

Technology
6. SEAs and LEAs select the level of technology to which professional development and student resources will be designed (current or next generation).
7. SEAs and LEAs accurately determine their existing technological capacity.
8. SEAs and LEAs accurately determine new technology needs.
9. State legislatures appropriate monies for hardware and internet infrastructure upgrades.
10. SEAs, LEAs, and individual schools determine whether to purchase new textbooks or use bridge texts.

Assessments and Accountability
11. SEAs select new assessments.
12. SEAs and LEAs pilot new assessments.
13. SEAs align new data with existing accountability systems and determine whether or not to use pre-common core testing data.
14. SEAs and LEAs use new data in useful ways to make cross school, district, and state comparisons.

Political Will
15. State leaders prepare the public for dip in test scores.
16. State leaders manage public opinion once test scores are made available.
17. State leaders use the new data constructively to inform political conversations.