



**The Alliance for Excellent Education and the  
Council of Chief State School Officers  
Present a Webinar**

## **New Model Core Teaching Standards: Released for Public Comment**

**Wednesday, October 6, 2010 ♦ 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm EST**

### **Speaker Biographies**

**Mariana Haynes, PhD**

*Senior Fellow, Alliance for Excellent Education*

Mariana Haynes is a senior fellow at the Alliance for Excellent Education where she works on middle and high school policy development. Prior to joining the Alliance in March 2010, Dr. Haynes served for ten years as director of research for the National Association of State Boards of Education. In that role, she developed, directed, and evaluated grants and projects involving in-depth examinations of state education policy in a range of areas including education leadership, assessment, adolescent literacy, early childhood education, and turning around low-performing schools. Dr. Haynes has written extensively on research and policy areas and has published a number of reports as the culminating event of year-long study groups comprised of state board of education members from across the country. She provided extensive technical assistance to a large network of states on the design of leadership development systems and launched state-led coalitions to build policy frameworks and capacity in advancing early childhood education and comprehensive adolescent literacy initiatives.

Previously, Dr. Haynes was the senior monitoring official at the Rhode Island State Department of Education and was responsible for ensuring statewide implementation of special education and school support policies to advance systemic reform in special and general education. As a teacher, she developed highly effective programs for special needs students in the United States, Spain, and Venezuela.

Dr. Haynes earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Delaware, a master of education degree from the University of Illinois, and a doctorate in special education from the University of Washington.

**Peter McWalters**

*Interim Strategic Initiative Director, Education Workforce, Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)*

Peter McWalters joined the CCSSO's leadership team after having served as the Rhode Island commissioner of elementary and secondary education from 1992 to 2009. During his time as commissioner, Mr. McWalters made significant gains in creating a better state-led system of education and increasing success for all of Rhode Island's students. Mr. McWalters also advocated for creating statewide early-childhood education, a school-financing system that was fair to all districts, the improvement of education for students with disabilities, and better and more comprehensive training and development for teachers and administrators.

Mr. McWalters's education career includes serving as a teacher of English as a second language in the Rochester, New York public school system, and as a leader of the Peace Corps in the Philippines.

Mr. McWalters holds a bachelor's degree in history and philosophy from Boston College, a master's degree of public administration and a certificate of advanced studies in education administration from the State University of New York, Brockport.

**Kathleen Paliokas**

*Program Director, Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC), Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)*

Kathleen Paliokas joined CCSSO as program director of InTASC. In this role, Ms. Paliokas oversaw the development and recent release of *Model Core Teaching Standards: A Resource for State Dialogue (Draft for Public Comment)* and *State Policy Implications of the Model Core Teaching Standards*. The InTASC consortium meets twice a year to develop consensus on key teacher policy issues and to oversee funded projects that forward their goals. These projects include development of model teacher standards and performance assessments.

Previously, Ms. Paliokas served as director of the Center for Improving Teacher Quality (CTQ), a national center funded by the Office of Special Education Programs at the U.S. Department of Education that worked with forty-one states from 2002 to 2008 to develop model policies to improve the preparation, licensing, and professional development of both general and special education teachers of students with disabilities.

Ms. Paliokas holds a BA in American government from the University of Virginia, an MA from the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, and a JD from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William & Mary. Before coming to CCSSO and InTASC, Ms. Paliokas studied at the Graduate School of Education and Human Development at the George Washington University and completed all course work and exams for a doctorate in education policy.