



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor, Educators Welcome Release of Common Core State Standards Education Department to Review R.I. Standards, Align Standards with Common Core

Governor Donald L. Carcieri, Regents' Chairman Flanders, and Education Commissioner Gist welcomed today's release (June 2, 2010) of the first single set of state educational standards for what students should know and be able to do at each grade level in English and mathematics.

A coalition of 48 states, 2 territories, and the District of Columbia have committed to developing the standards, known as the Common Core State Standards. Under the leadership of the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers, the Common Core State Standards Initiative developed the Common Core standards over the past two years. Educators and experts from throughout the country contributed to the process.

The goal of the effort has been to have clear, understandable, and consistent standards that are benchmarked against those used in top-performing countries. The standards will help educators prepare students for graduation and for successful entry into college and the workforce.

"Rhode Island, along with Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, embraced the common-standard concept with the creation of the New England Common Assessment Program to realign and raise our own standards and grade-level expectations, to more clearly define what we expect our students to learn, and to provide comparability among states in the region," said Governor Donald L. Carcieri. "All children deserve the opportunity to receive a high-quality education, regardless of where they live. We must provide our educators with clear expectations to help our children compete in the global economy."

"We are proud to be part of the Common Core State Standards initiative, which has developed world-class standards benchmarked against the standards in the top-performing countries," said Robert G. Flanders, Jr., Esq., Chairman of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education. "The Common Core will help us ensure that our students are ready for success and that our graduates can compete against the best students in the world."

"The Common Core standards will help our teachers and school leaders by setting clear, rigorous expectations," said Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. "We will use these standards to improve instruction and to develop new assessments so that teachers can more accurately gauge student progress and identify learning gaps. I look forward to working with the Regents and with educators across Rhode Island to put these new standards in place in all of our public schools."

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One priority in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) Strategic Plan, *Transforming Education in Rhode Island*, is to “establish world-class standards and assessments,” in part through adopting the Common Core and aligning current Rhode Island standards with the Common Core. RIDE is also committed to working with all educators to ensure that they understand the new standards and can use them effectively in the classroom.

Current Rhode Island [standards](#), developed in partnership with the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) states, are known as grade-level expectations and grade-span expectations. Rhode Island will work with the NECAP states to review the current standards and to develop an alignment study comparing the two sets of standards. A multi-year plan is in place to guide the transition from the current standards to the Common Core.

RIDE will review the Common Core standards, and Commissioner Gist will present the new Common Core standards to the Regents at their July 1 meeting for consideration for adoption.

For more information about the Common Core, click [here](#).

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