

The Common Core State Standards

A guide for Rhode Island's Friends of Education



R.I. Department of Education (RIDE)

This guide provides an overview of the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS), how they will impact our state's education system, and what you can do to help ensure a seamless transition.

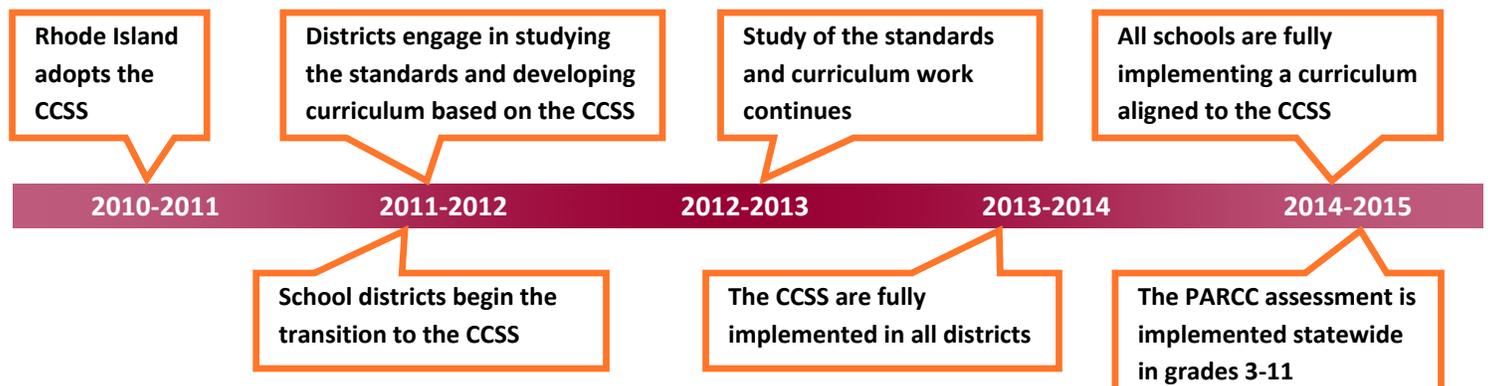
What are the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)?

The CCSS are the result of a multi-state effort to establish a shared set of clear educational standards for English language arts/literacy and mathematics. The standards were informed by the highest state standards across the country and the standards of high-performing countries across the globe. They were developed by a diverse group of teachers and content experts, with feedback from higher education and the business community, in order to reflect the expectations in knowledge and skills that higher education and employers have for our students upon graduation from high school. These standards are designed to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to enter college and/or the workforce. Rhode Island is one of 44 states across the country that has adopted the standards.

Why are we adopting new content standards in Rhode Island?

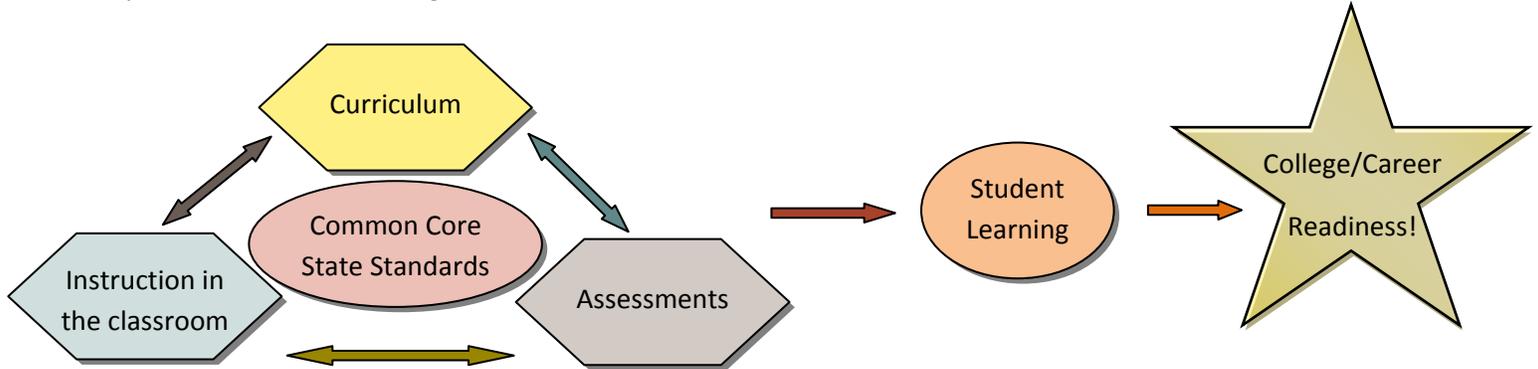
- ◆ The CCSS are comparable to our existing standards [Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) and Grade Span Expectations (GSEs)] for mathematics, reading, and written/oral communication. They include rigorous expectations, robust content, and relevant, real-world skills. The CCSS were designed to bridge an "expectation gap" found nationwide that marks a disconnect between what is needed for a high school diploma and what students need to know and be able to do in order to be successful in college and careers. For more information, go to www.ride.ri.gov/Instruction/CommonCore.aspx.
- ◆ By adopting these common standards, our state is positioned to work with other states on collaborative curriculum and assessment initiatives, such as the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) which will replace the current state assessment (NECAP) in 2014-15 for ELA/literacy and mathematics and the new alternate assessment which will replace the RIAA. As a governing state in PARCC, RI plays an important role in the development of the assessment. For more information, see www.ride.ri.gov/assessment/PARCC.aspx.
- ◆ The PARCC assessment, which is based on the CCSS, is composed of two assessment components given near the end of the school year. The first component will assess hard-to-measure standards through performance tasks (e.g., writing effectively when analyzing text, solving math problems based on everyday scenarios). The second component is an end-of-year component that can be scored quickly. Together, the two components will provide a total score for students. PARCC is also developing two optional formative assessments (early and mid-year) that can be used to provide instructionally useful feedback to teachers and students.

What is the timeline for implementation of the CCSS and the new PARCC assessment in Rhode Island?



How does this impact education in our state?

Over the next two years, RIDE will be working with LEAs to ensure that all districts are using curricula aligned to the CCSS by the 2014-2015 academic year. Administrators and teachers in the K-12 education community will engage in studying the CCSS, developing curricula, and outlining a transition plan to implement the curriculum in time for the new PARCC and alternate assessments. The PARCC assessment will provide relevant, timely data to indicate students' preparedness for college and careers. Rigorous, relevant curriculum and instruction based on the CCSS will ensure that students will have the necessary skills to succeed in college and/or career.



What should I be doing this year?

- Educate yourself about the CCSS so that you are aware of what they represent, what they mean, and how they impact student learning.
- Communicate regularly with the K-12 community to determine how you can get involved and stay informed about changes to curriculum and programs as a result of the CCSS.
- If you are a business or organization that has close ties with a district and/or school (e.g., after-school program), work with that district/school(s) to determine any changes that need to be made to your own programs.

Where can I find additional information about the CCSS and PARCC assessment?



Common Core State Standards, PARCC, and curriculum transition information on the RIDE website:
www.ride.ri.gov/Division-EEIE/transition.aspx



Ready, Set, Go Common Core! – RIDE's Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/pages/Ready-Set-Go-Common-Core/247158315320219



Common Core State Standards Initiative website:
www.corestandards.org/



PARCC website:
www.parcconline.org/

This brochure can be downloaded from www.ride.ri.gov/Instruction/docs/CommonCore/CCSS_Guide-Friends.pdf