



The Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Quarterly Updates

October, 2011



*Rhode Island's
Transition to the
Common Core*



Criteria & Guidance Released

The Office of Instruction, Assessment, and Curriculum has released the Comprehensive Assessment System Criteria & Guidance document. This guide provides:

- a common understanding of the features of a comprehensive assessment system
- shared language about assessment
- tools for LEAs to deepen assessment literacy among educators
- tools for LEAs to use to take inventory of their current assessment system and plan next steps for refining it.

Topics addressed by the guide include:

- purpose of assessment
- types of assessment
- considerations for developing and selecting assessments
- interpreting and communicating data
- reliability, validity, and fairness

Though specifically aimed at LEA leadership, the guide would also be useful for school administrators, curriculum and assessment directors, and teacher leaders and could serve as a foundation for professional development around assessment.

The guide can be accessed at our dedicated Comprehensive Assessment System webpage:

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/assessment/CAS.aspx>.

CAS Webinar Series

In addition to the CAS Criteria & Guidance, RIDE is hosting a series of webinars on developing a comprehensive assessment system and other topics related to assessment.

The focus of the first webinar, held on September 28th, was defining a comprehensive assessment system and illustrating how a CAS can support other LEA initiatives and projects, including Educator Evaluation, the transition to the Common Core State Standards and the PARCC assessment, and the Instructional Management System. This webinar was recorded and will be available on the CAS webpage. Upcoming webinars include:

- Sept. 28th Defining a CAS and how it supports other RTTT initiatives
- Oct. 5th NECAP Q&A
- Oct. 12th CAS & Student Learning Objectives
- Oct. 19th Taking inventory using the Assessment Maps (Appendix A)
- November 9th Follow up on Assessment Maps (Appendix A) & next steps

After the initial fall series, webinars will be held monthly on assessment topics to be determined. RI educators from central office staff to classroom teachers are encouraged to participate. You can register for the webinars on the RIDE CAS webpage <http://www.ride.ri.gov/assessment/CAS.aspx>.

RTTT Assessment Initiatives Update

Building/refining a comprehensive assessment system, a requirement under the Basic Education Program Regulations, will prepare LEAs for the RTTT assessment initiatives that will launch fall 2012.

Formative Assessment *RIDE is developing a series of online modules on the formative assessment process, which will be available to all RI educators in the fall of 2012. Modules will be housed on the IMS and, therefore, can be accessed according to educators' schedules/availability. As you may remember, you have RTTT funds set aside for in-person training on this resource. RIDE will work with LEA leadership to determine the appropriate mode, schedule, and personnel for this training and will communicate decisions as soon as possible.*

July - September 2011 Recap

- RIDE identified both a technical vendor (Smithfield-based company TechComm Partners specializing in online learning development and delivery) and a Subject Matter Expert (Nancy Gerzon of West Ed, who helped lead the New York Formative Assessment Technical Assistance Project).
- We began developing the scope and sequence of the modules and designing a module prototype.

October - December 2011 Preview

- Developing the content of the modules with our Subject Matter Expert
- Solidifying our professional development plan
- Identifying schools for a pilot study of the formative assessment process

Interim: *The interim assessment system will support sets of online assessments for 3-11 Math and ELA. The system will include an item bank and test building engine for Math, ELA, Science, and Social Studies. It is slated to roll out in the fall of 2012. It will be available through the IMS.*

October - December 2011 Preview

- Finalizing a contract with vendor, outlining the scope of work, and ensuring that our technology systems are compatible.
- We anticipate that this fall will be busy with item and product development.
- Stay tuned for more updates as the work progresses quickly throughout the next few weeks.

Data Use Professional Development: *The Data Use PD is currently in development and will launch in the fall of 2012. This professional development will be targeted towards school leadership teams and focus on the use of data to inform decision-making.*

July - September 2011 Recap

- The Data Use Professional Development team reached out to a number of LEA representatives and principals to get feedback for the structure and the content of the data use trainings.
- RIDE wrote and issued a Request for Proposals to solicit a vendor to carry out professional development for school leadership teams on the use of data.
- RIDE formed a Technical Review Committee with LEA representatives to evaluate vendor proposals as they are received.

October - December 2011 Preview

- The Technical Review Committee will review vendor proposals and award a contract to one vendor.
- The Data Use PD team will begin to develop a Data Use Professional Development website that will be available Winter 2012 through the Comprehensive Assessment System web page.



Rhode Island's Transition to the Common Core

GET READY!

Rhode Island's Transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
and the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)

Update for July - September 2011

CCSS Implementation Resources Developed

For Central Office and Building Administrators:

RIDE developed resources to assist LEAs in short-term and long-term planning and implementation of the CCSS as LEAs develop their multi-year CCSS/PARCC transition plans:

- [CCSS & PARCC Transition Timeline](#)
Provides a multi-year view of the expectations for RIDE and LEAs for the transition to the CCSS and the PARCC assessment
- [Get READY! SY 2011-2012 LEA Transition Planning](#)
Articulates LEA expectations for the SY 2011-12 with specific action steps
- [CCSS/ PARCC School Implementation SY 11-12](#)
Provides examples as to how a school can use faculty meetings and common planning time during the SY 2011-12 to deepen educators' understanding of the CCSS and PARCC

For Teachers:

RIDE developed several new resources for teachers to learn more about the CCSS and aid in the transition:

- CCSS vs. GLEs/GSEs Overviews in [ELA/Literacy](#) & [Mathematics](#)
Articulate the new features of the CCSS with particular attention devoted to the major shifts in focus and/or rigor across grade spans
- [Introduction to the CCSS PowerPoint](#)
Provides an overview of the CCSS and Rhode Island's transition
- [Video Vignettes](#)
Feature the Lead Writers of the CCSS providing insight and a deeper understanding of the standards in Mathematics, ELA/ Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects.

General information on the CCSS:

A common question has been, “What are the Common Core State Standards, and what do they mean for me?” RIDE has answered that question with a series of informational guides for five stakeholder groups: [teachers](#), [administrators](#), [higher education partners](#), [parents/families](#), and the [Rhode Island community](#). These guides provide general information about the state’s adoption of the CCSS, a timeline, and steps that each group can take for a smooth transition.

- All of the [Common Core State Standards documents](#) from ‘CoreStandards.org’ are now linked on the RIDE web site.
- There is a free downloadable CCSS app for mobile devices (both [Apple](#) and [Android](#) platforms).
- Parents will find the [PTA Parents’ Guides to Students’ Success](#) to be useful in illustrating what students at each grade level, K-8 and high school, in Mathematics and ELA/Literacy will be learning through the CCSS.

Study of the Common Core State Standards for CCSS

The *Study of the Common Core State Standards* workshops are continuing across the state. The sessions give educators throughout Rhode Island a common language for discussing and working with the Common Core. During the past quarter, 1,859 educators from nine districts participated in 50 sessions. To date we have trained over 3,000 educators which is nearly 75% of our goal of 4,100 educators. Thank you, educators, for your hard work!

Curriculum Development

East Providence and Pawtucket leadership teams began working together to develop English/Language Arts curriculum aligned to the CCSS. Similarly, Chariho, Exeter-West Greenwich, East Greenwich, Jamestown, Narragansett, New Shoreham, North Kingstown, South Kingstown, and Westerly are working together to develop mathematics curriculum. This marked the beginning of two years of intensive work supported by Rhode Island’s Race to the Top funds.

Communications Tools

RIDE is excited to announce that we have launched [a Facebook page, “Ready, Set, Go Common Core!”](#) This page will be updated regularly with support materials and other news relating to the state’s transition to the CCSS. [Our CCSS transition home page](#) also has a “Like” button linking to the Facebook page. Be sure to like this page, and encourage colleagues to like it too!

Also on our transition page, you can subscribe to our RSS feed for notifications when we post something new on our web site.

RIDE now has an email address dedicated exclusively to our transition to the Common Core State Standards – RI.CommonCore@ride.ri.gov. Please send us your questions and feedback!

PARCC Update

The Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) has a new proposed assessment design. In this design two summative components will provide a total score for students:

- The first summative component will take place approximately 75% through the school year and 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 summative component is an end-of-year component that can be scored quickly.
- 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.

In August, PARCC released for public review its [draft Model Content Frameworks](#) in English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics. The Model Content Frameworks were developed through a collaborative state-led process between PARCC state experts and members of the Common Core State Standards writing teams. The Model Content Frameworks will:

- Help identify the big ideas in the Common Core State Standards for each grade level;
- Help determine the focus for the various PARCC assessment components; and
- Support the development of the PARCC assessment blueprints.

Looking Ahead to October - December 2011

CCSS Implementation Resources Planned

The CCSS Implementation Resources that are in development reflect feedback from the field on where needs currently exist in implementation processes. If you have a suggestion for a helpful resource or know of a specific need, email: RI.CommonCore@ride.ri.gov.

Coming Soon:

- *“After Study of the Standards” Professional Development Modules*
How do participants take their learning back to their school and share with their colleagues after their Study of the Standards session? These modules will provide a structure for utilizing the materials presented within the workshop with colleagues.
- An Expanded CCSS vs. GLEs/GSEs Overview document that will identify, by grade level, specific areas of focus within Mathematics and ELA/Literacy.
- Updated Information and Guidance on the Technology Transition for PARCC.

Study of the Common Core State Standards

The *Study of the Common Core State Standards* workshops are projected to be held for at least 16 LEAs throughout Rhode Island during this quarter. More than 490 educators will attend fourteen ELA or Math sessions. We recommend that LEAs who will be holding sessions in the future have district and building leadership attend. LEAs which have already participated in the Study of the Standards, but had leadership that were unable to attend, please contact Kate Shultz (kate.schulz@ride.ri.gov or 222- 8489) for information on attending future sessions.

Communications Tools

RIDE will release a promotional flyer for organizations and professional associations to distribute to members to spread the word about the transition and available resources for the CCSS and PARCC.

Curriculum Writing

Four districts will continue writing and/or implementing Math curricula aligned to the Common Core. Warwick is in their first year of implementing a Common Core Mathematics curriculum. Woonsocket, Cumberland and Lincoln are in the process of aligning their curriculum to Common Core.

Also during this quarter, two cohorts – one a group of nine districts, the other a pair of urban districts – will begin curriculum work. The cohort of nine districts (Narragansett, Jamestown, Chariho, East Greenwich, Exeter-West Greenwich, North Kingstown, South Kingstown, and New Shoreham) will start writing work on a Mathematics CCSS-aligned curriculum. The urban districts of East Providence and Pawtucket will initiate writing an English Language Arts CCSS-aligned curriculum. Classroom teachers will write this curriculum with expert guidance from the Dana Center at the University of Texas at Austin and their partner West ED.