

The Common Core State Standards

Get Ready! Rhode Island Administrators



R.I. Department of Education (RIDE)

This guide provides an overview of the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS), how they will impact your district / school, and what you can do to help ensure a seamless transition.

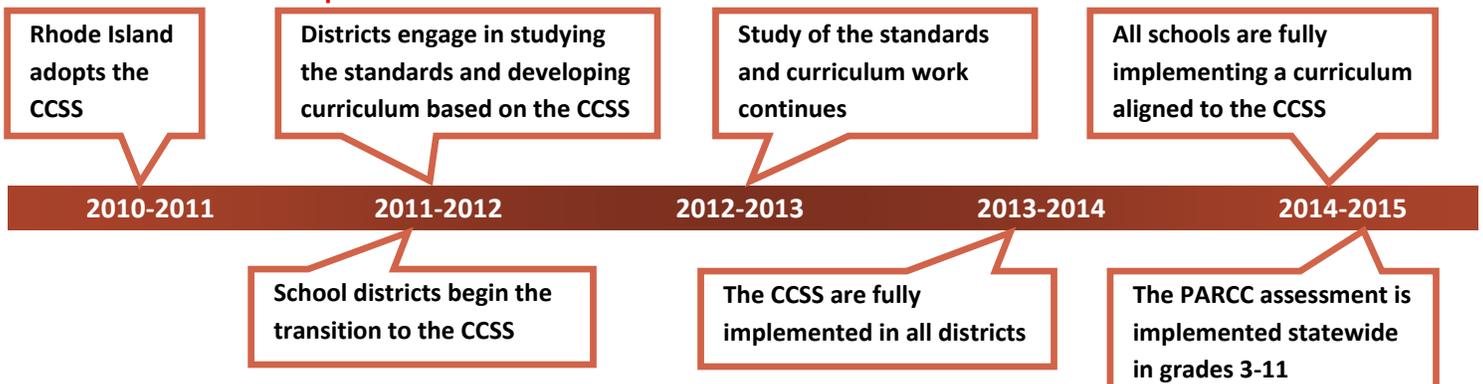
What are the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)?

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 on PARCC, 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?

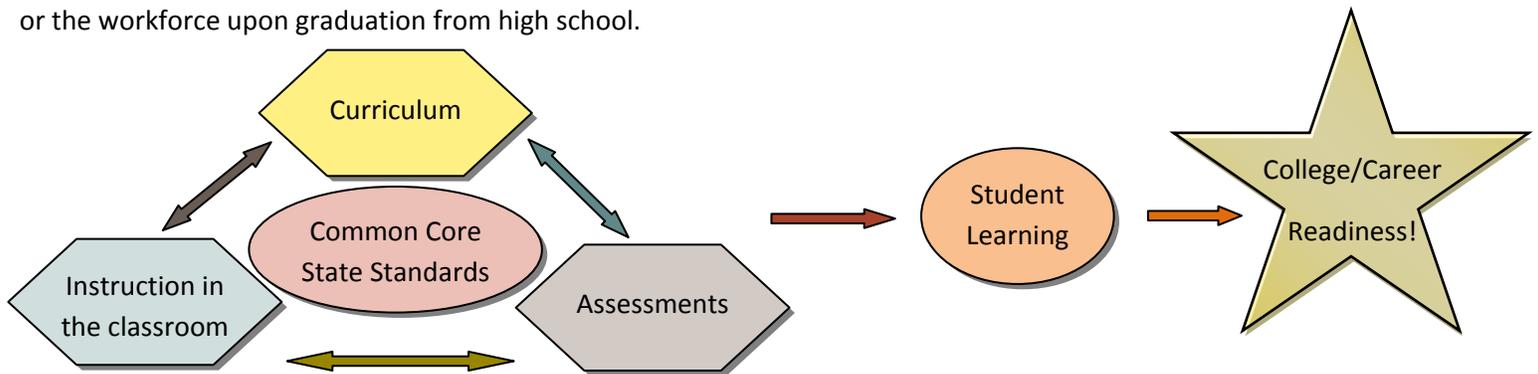


What does “full implementation” look like?

- All districts will be instructing students based on guaranteed and viable curricula that are fully aligned to the standards.
- Local assessments, the new statewide assessment (PARCC), and the new alternate assessment (GSEG) will be aligned to the CCSS.
- English Language Proficiency Standards will reflect the CCSS.

How does this impact my district / school?

Over the next two years, RIDE will be working with LEAs to ensure that all districts and schools are using curricula aligned to the CCSS by the 2014-2015 academic year. Teachers and administrators will engage in studying the CCSS, developing example curricula, and outlining a transition plan to implement the curriculum in time for the new PARCC and alternate assessments. Though the transition will require administrators and teachers to adjust curriculum and instruction, the CCSS, along with the data from the new PARCC assessment, will help ensure that all Rhode Island students are fully prepared for success in college or the workforce upon graduation from high school.



What should I be doing this year?

- As a district leader ...
 - Educate yourself about the CCSS so that you can answer the questions of your principals, teachers, and students’ families. Review the new Transition Planning Resources (e.g., benchmarks, action steps) on RIDE’s web site.
 - Participate in Study of the Standards and intensive curriculum alignment.
 - Plan opportunities using PD time or provide guidance for staff meetings for principals to educate and periodically update their faculty and staff on the CCSS and encourage them to seek out additional resources.
 - Develop a transition plan for your district.
- As a building leader...
 - Educate yourself about the CCSS so that you are empowered to answer the questions of your faculty and staff. Review the SY 2011-12 School Implementation Example found on the RIDE web site.
 - Participate in Study of the Standards and intensive curriculum alignment, as directed by your district leadership.
 - Use PD time or staff meetings to educate and periodically update your faculty and staff on the CCSS and encourage them to seek out additional resources.
 - Ask your district leadership about the transition plan for your district.

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



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-Admin.pdf