

Common Core State Standards

Dallastown Area School District Parent/Guardian Information

Background:

The Pennsylvania State Board of Education in July, 2011, after deliberating and seeking input during the previous year, joined over 46 states and the District of Columbia in adopting the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for its academic standards. The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), along with its Intermediate Units and the local school districts, are phasing in implementation of the Common Core State Standards over the next three years. PDE is also authorized to develop and/or revise assessments to reflect the incorporation of CCSS into the state's academic standards.

What is Common Core?

The Common Core State Standards are a rigorous set of academic standards for the English Language Arts and the Mathematics curriculum. The standards were developed by the Chief Academic Officers and governors of each state with input from K-12 teachers and administrators, college-level educators, and experts in the fields of special education and civil rights law. CCSS is designed to bring consistency and rigor across the nation when fully implemented.

The standards are designed to achieve the following:

- Prepare students for career and college
- Provide clarity and consistency across each grade level, and to provide understandable explanations for each standard
- Include rigorous, focused content with clear expectations for student performance
- Align with current state academic standards
- Use best-practice and evidence-based strategies to promote student achievement
- Reflect strategies and expectations seen in other top-performing countries

The Common Core State Standards are not a "recipe," nor are they a step-by-step guide for classroom instruction. Rather, the CCSS outline goals and skills to be mastered in each academic area (English Language Arts and Mathematics) and to reflect expectations for English Language Arts standards in history/social studies, science, and the technical arts beginning in grade 6.

The CCSS specifies what the student should know, and how he/she may evidence the learning. The CCSS do not specify "how" the content is taught.

Where can I find additional information related to the Common Core?

Additional information related to the CCSS can be found by accessing the following websites:

- www.dallastown.net/Page/3734
- www.pdesas.org/standard/commoncore
- www.corestandards.org

When will the Common Core assessments be given to students?

2012-13 School Year

Grade(s)	Assessment(s) Taken
3 rd	Mathematics and Reading *Writing Field Test
4 th	Mathematics, Reading, Science *Writing Field Test
5 th	Mathematics, Reading, Writing *Writing Field Test
6 th	Mathematics and Reading
7 th	Mathematics and Reading
8 th	Mathematics, Reading, Science, Writing

2013-14 School Year

Grade(s)	Assessment(s) Taken
3 rd	Mathematics and English Language Arts (PA CC) *Includes Writing
4 th	Mathematics and English Language Arts (PA CC) and Science *Includes Writing
5 th	Mathematics and English Language Arts (PA CC) *Includes Writing
6 th	Traditional Mathematics and Reading PSSA *Writing Field Test
7 th	Traditional Mathematics and Reading PSSA *Writing Field Test
8 th	Traditional Mathematics, Reading, Science, Writing PSSA * Writing Field Test

2014-15 School Year

Grade(s)	Assessment(s) Taken
3 rd	Mathematics and English Language Arts (PA CC) *Includes Writing
4 th	Mathematics and English Language Arts (PA CC) and Science *Includes Writing
5 th	Mathematics and English Language Arts (PA CC) *Includes Writing
6 th	Mathematics and English Language Arts (PA CC) *Includes Writing
7 th	Mathematics and English Language Arts (PA CC) *Includes Writing
8 th	Mathematics and English Language Arts (PA CC) and Science *Includes Writing

What has Dallastown Area School District already done to prepare for the implementation of CCSS?

During the 2011-2012 school year all teachers in the school district were introduced to the CCSS. Various stakeholder committees were developed to prepare for the major curricular shifts for respective curricular areas. An outline of work completed to date includes:

Activities to be conducted in preparation for the 2013-14 Common Core Exams

Date	Subjects/Grade	Activity
Fall 2012	Math 7-12	Major curricular shifts to be identified
		Gap filling to be planned to support current students progression into curriculum aligned to the CCSS during the 2014-15 school year
		CCSS and Algebra alignment to be analyzed for 7 th grade curricular decisions
Fall and Winter 2012	Science, History & Technical Subjects 6-12	Informational meetings will be held to update teachers on ELA changes that will occur with the CCSS
Entire School Year	ELA K-12	Current texts reviewed for text complexity
		Non-fiction texts identified for future use
		Curriculum maps updated
	Math K – 6	My Math and Glencoe Math resources will be utilized with trained staff during specific units of study
Spring 2013	Math K-6	All curriculum maps to be updated

What preparation will occur at Dallastown Area School District this year to prepare for the implementation of CCSS?

Activities to be conducted in preparation for the 2013-14 Common Core Exams

Date	Subjects/Grade	Activity
Fall 2012	Math 7-12	Major curricular shifts to be identified
		Gap filling to be planned to support current students progression into curriculum aligned to the CCSS during the 2014-15 school year
		CCSS and Algebra alignment to be analyzed for 7 th grade curricular decisions
Fall and Winter 2012	Science, History & Technical Subjects 6-12	Informational meetings will be held to update teachers on ELA changes that will occur with the CCSS
Entire School Year	ELA K-12	Current texts reviewed for text complexity
		Non-fiction texts identified for future use
		Curriculum maps updated
	Math K – 6	My Math and Glencoe Math resources will be utilized with trained staff during specific units of study
Spring 2013	Math K-6	All curriculum maps to be updated