
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: HOW DOES COMMON CORE AFFECT CURRICULUM?

DO THE STANDARDS IMPACT THE ENTIRE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM?

Standards already have been developed for grades K-12 in English and math. In the next few years, standards will become available in science and social studies.

IS NEW MEXICO ADOPTING ALL THE CCSS?

New Mexico adopted all Common Core State Standards in October 2010.

WHAT KINDS OF CURRICULUM MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE NOW TO HELP TEACHERS TRANSITION TO THE NEW STANDARDS?

The Public Education Department and districts are making a variety of materials available to their teachers and principals. The PED CCSS website, www.newmexicocommoncore.org already provides links to expert organizations that are developing instructional and assessment modules for math and ELA. Model Content Frameworks are available from the PARCC website, www.parcconline.org. The standards themselves are available for ELA at www.corestandards.org/the-standards/english-language-arts-standards and for math at www.corestandards.org/the-standards/mathematics. While educators may want to begin to review the standards themselves, they also may want to participate in structured professional development to “Study the Standards,” which the state may make available on a regional basis and which is available now from the Advanced Programs Initiative Foundation (www.nmapi.org) or, in math, from MC² (mc2.nmsu.edu).

WHAT ARE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS OF THE STANDARDS ON INSTRUCTION?

The Common Core is a new approach to teaching, learning and testing for the 21st century that focuses on giving students deep understanding of the most important concepts in the subjects they are studying so that they can apply those knowledge and skills to other subjects and in the real world. *All* teachers will require substantial professional development as they transition to a system that emphasizes deeper content knowledge, practical application of mathematical and literacy skills, analysis and problem solving, and integration within and across subjects at every grade level. Teachers will have the opportunity to study these new standards and collaborate with their peers in the development of new curriculum materials and teaching practices that meet these needs.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: HOW DOES COMMON CORE AFFECT INSTRUCTION AND TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT?

HOW WILL TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE CCSS BE FUNDED?

The PED is seeking funding from the state Legislature and from private foundations to help pay the high cost of preparing teachers for CCSS. Professional development on the CCSS will be jointly funded by NMPED and districts. Districts may divert existing federal professional development dollars towards professional development on the CCSS. NMPED is requesting additional funding from the state legislature and from private sources specifically to support districts in the transition to the CCSS.

WHO WILL FUND ADOPTING INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ALIGNED TO THE CCSS?

NMPED receives funding specifically for adopting new instructional materials following the normal adoption cycle. NMPED is requesting that the ELA adoption cycle be accelerated to this year (2012) in order to prepare districts with instructional materials aligned to the CCSS in time for the 2012-2013 school year. NMPED is requesting additional funding to assist with this process.

WILL THE ACADEMIC VOCABULARY BE CONSISTENT ACROSS THE STATE BY GRADE LEVEL OR WILL IT BE A DISTRICT DECISION?

In order to promote consistency and continuity, it is recommended that districts develop a common language in implementing CCSS. The following provide an overview of terms and phrases to be used state-wide:

English Language Arts (ELA) / Literacy: A glossary of ELA/literacy key terms is found at http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_A.pdf within Appendix A of the ELA/Literacy Common Core State Standards on pages 42-43

Mathematics: A glossary of key math terms provided by the Common Core State Standards Initiative is found online at: <http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards/mathematics/glossary/glossary/>

Gifted Education: Definitions of the key terms used through the discussion of the Common Core State Standards and the Standards' relationship to gifted and talented education provided by the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC): <http://www.nagc.org/index2.aspx?id=8988>

HOW DOES COMMON CORE AFFECT TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT? CONT.

WHAT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WILL BE PROVIDED IN SUMMER 2012?

NMPED, in collaboration with New Mexico State University (NMSU), will provide summer academies scheduled to coincide with the NMCCSS implementation timeline; however, districts are asked to begin their own in-depth ongoing study of the new standards in all grades in spring 2012 while supported by resources and additional professional development opportunities posted on newmexicocommoncore.org.

Grades	Timeframe	Summer Academies for District Teams
K-3	Summer 2012	ELA CCSS Academy
K-3	Summer 2012	Math CCSS Academy for grades K-3
4-12	Summer 2013	ELA CCSS Academy for grades 4-12
4-12	Summer 2013	ELA CCSS Academy for grades 4-12
6-12	Summer 2013	CCSS Literacy Standards Academy for Social Studies, Science & Technical Subjects
3-12	Summer 2014	PARCC Academy

WHAT OTHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES ON THE CCSS ARE AVAILABLE?

The following will be provided in addition to the summer academies listed above.

Timeframe	Professional Development Offering
March 2-3, 2012	CCSS Summit Conference for District Teams
Spring 2012	NMPED begins Professional Development (PD) Service Providers Vetting Process. Listing of vetted providers will be posted online on newmexicocommoncore.org .
Spring/Summer 2012	NMPED partners provide PD for grades K-3 on Study of Standards; Math Practices & Instructional Shifts; ELA Capacities of the Literate Individual & Instructional Shifts; Content Knowledge; Development of Instructional Units & Assessments.
June 2012	Instructional Material Bureau provides training to Mathematics & ELA (pending) Adoption Review Committees.
Spring/ Summer 2013	PD for grades 4-12 on Study of Standards Process; Math Practices & Instructional Shifts; ELA Capacities of the Literate Individual & Instructional Shifts; Content Knowledge; Development of Instructional Units & Assessments

NEW MEXICO COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

