

Overview for Parents: The Common Core State Standards

What are the Common Core State Standards?

By providing clear goals for student learning, educational standards help teachers ensure their students have the skills and knowledge they need to be successful.

The *Common Core State Standards* provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.

[From Common Core State Standards Initiative website: www.corestandards.org.]

Why the Move To the Common Core?

- College and Career Readiness is the new national norm.
- Workplace reading, measured by lexiles, exceeds grade twelve complexity significantly. (Stenner, Koons, & Swartz)
- The demands that college, careers, and citizenship place on readers have either held steady or increased over the last 50 years.
- Students in college are expected to read complex texts with substantially greater independence than are students in typical K-12 programs. (Erickson & Strommer, 1991; Pritchard, Wilson, & Yamnitz, 2007)
- K-12 texts have actually trended downward in difficulty in the last half century (Chall, Conard, & Harris, 1977)
- Forty-eight states have adopted the CCSS and are participating in two assessment consortiums to create new state assessments for 2014-2015

(From Supplementary Materials, Greater Boston Readiness Center Common Core Advisory Team)

How Are the Common Core Standards Incorporated Into the New MA Frameworks?

The *Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for English Language Arts & Literacy* and *Mathematics* build on the *Common Core State Standards*. Each state was allowed to determine and include unique standards, in addition to adopting all of the Common Core Standards. Massachusetts added 15% in additional standards to the Common Core, resulting in the current *Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for English Language Arts & Literacy* and *Mathematics*. The Acton Public Schools are implementing these new Massachusetts standards during the 2012-2013 school year.

To Learn More

Websites:

National Parent-Teacher Association Parents' Guides to Student Success:

<http://www.pta.org/4446.htm>

Common Core State Standards Initiative: <http://www.corestandards.org/>

Massachusetts Common Core Standards Initiative page with links to 2011 *Curriculum Frameworks for English Language Arts & Literacy* and *Mathematics*:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/candi/commoncore/>

Online Videos:

Teaching Channel: Common Core State Standards: Elementary School video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IPxt794-yU&feature=plcp>

The Hunt Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy videos on the Common Core State Standards: <http://www.youtube.com/user/TheHuntInstitute?feature=watch>