

Your Guide to The Maryland Common Core State Curriculum



BACKGROUND

In June 2010 the Maryland State Board of Education unanimously adopted the Common Core State Standards in English/Language Arts and Mathematics. These national education standards establish a set of shared goals and expectations for what students should understand and be able to do in grades K-12 in order to be prepared for success in college and the workplace. Common standards help ensure that students are receiving an equally rigorous, high quality education consistently, from school to school and state to state. The Common Core State Standards form the foundation upon which Maryland is building its new State Curriculum.

THE MARYLAND COMMON CORE STATE CURRICULUM

While the Common Core State Standards provide goals and expectations for student learning, Maryland educators are developing the State Curriculum that will help its students achieve the Standards.

Following the adoption of the Common Core Standards, Maryland launched a broad-based, year-long process to analyze the new Standards and compared the alignment of the existing State Curriculum to the Common Core State Standards. Using only the “excellent” matches in each grade level, development of the new Maryland Common Core Curriculum Frameworks began. Since the Common Core State Standards did not include Pre-K, Maryland educators created standards and developed the essential skills and knowledge to serve these students, as well.

Hundreds of classroom educators, instructional leaders, administrators, and higher education representatives continue to assist State officials in developing the new Maryland Common Core State Curriculum. The new State Curriculum will be implemented in Maryland schools in the 2013-2014 school year.

The Maryland Common Core State Curriculum will have two main components, the Curriculum Frameworks and the Online Curriculum Toolkit.

The Common Core State Standards

- National education standards covering grades K-12 in English/Language Arts and Mathematics
- Anchored in college and career readiness
- Research and evidence based
- Internationally benchmarked
- State-led effort, headed by Council for Chief State School Officers and National Governors Association
- Voluntarily adopted by over 40 states and U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia

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THE CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS

The Maryland Common Core Curriculum Frameworks in English/Language Arts and Mathematics define the essential skills and knowledge that students need to know and be able to do in order to achieve the academic goals of the Common Core State Standards. The Frameworks are the foundation of Maryland's new Curriculum and will guide the development of curriculum resources.

Since the adoption of the Common Core State Standards, educators from around Maryland have met to determine the Essential Skills and Knowledge associated with these Standards. The Frameworks are the result of this work.

On June 21, 2011, the Maryland State Board of Education unanimously accepted Maryland's Draft Common Core Curriculum Frameworks for English/Language Arts and Mathematics.

The draft Frameworks have been posted on www.mdk12.org and are open to comments and feedback. Additional feedback will be gathered from other groups, including 6,000 educators at this summer's Educator Effectiveness Academies, 150 teachers at Master Teacher Training, representatives from colleges and universities across the state at Institutes of Higher Education meetings, multiple Supervisors' briefings, and the Assistant Superintendents/Executive Officers Mini-Academy.

THE ONLINE CURRICULUM TOOLKIT

Maryland's Online Curriculum Toolkit provides resources that will assist educators in designing instructional programs that are aligned with the new Curriculum and the new assessments.

The Toolkit will contain model lessons, model units, formative assessments, multi-media resources, intervention and enrichment modules, online courses for students and educators. This rich curriculum resource will also enable educators to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all students.

ASSESSMENTS

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is developing new assessments that are aligned with the Common Core State Standards.

PARCC is a consortium of 25 states working together to develop an assessment system aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Maryland is a Governing State in the PARCC consortium.

The new assessments will be anchored in college and career readiness; provide comparability across states; and be able to assess and measure higher-order skills such as critical thinking, communications, and problem solving.

The PARCC assessments will be implemented in Maryland in the 2014-15 school year and will replace the Maryland School Assessments.



Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed.D., Interim State Superintendent of Schools
Maryland State Department of Education, July 2011