

## DIVISION OF CURRICULUM

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### *Transition to Common Core See attached handout.*

With the direction to create PA Common Core Standards, several actions are underway to move in this direction. Work groups have been addressing Anchor and Eligible Content as well as development of the actual standards. The following summarizes the actions and assessment plans.

- To date, draft sets of Common Core aligned Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content have been created for Math and English Language Arts for grades 3- 8 and 11.
- The development of PA Common Core Standards began in January and represents the reframing of the existing PA Academic Standards, with the addition of the Common Core grade levels shifts, instructional emphases, and rigor.
- Once standards are codified, our SAS site will be populated with the revised standards, and the alignment of SAS resources to the new standards will begin.
- Revised PSSA tests will be phased in over a two-year period. A field test for grades 3, 4, and 5 will occur in 2013, with Common Core aligned PSSAs in these grades operational in 2014. Field tests for grades 6, 7, and 8 will occur in 2014, with these tests operational in 2015.
- Keystone Exams will resume in 2012 - 2013 in Algebra I, Biology, and Literature; Grade 11 PSSA tests in Math, Science, and Reading will be phased out with the implementation of these Keystone Exams.
- Note that PSSA Writing will phase out as the PSSA English Language Arts (reading and writing) assessment is implemented.
- PSSA Science will continue to be offered for students in Grades 4 and 8.

Content advisors will be creating training modules and the trainings will occur upon completion of the Assessment Anchor/Eligible Content and standards work.

Students that are currently in grades 1, 2, and 3 will take the NEW PSSA test that is aligned to the Common Core when they are in grades 3, 4, 5.



**COMMON CORE TRANSITION TIMELINE**

DATE	ACTIVITY
February 24, 2012	Common Core: Revision of Assessment Anchor/Eligible Content in Math, Reading, and Writing in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 to align to Common Core Standards
February 24, 2012	Common Core: Development of PA Common Core Standards in English Language Arts and Math
March 2012	Common Core: Develop PA Common Core train the trainer modules and schedule training sessions across the state
March 2012	Common Core: Revise Curriculum Framework and align to PA Common Core Standards; begin alignment of SAS resources to PA Common Core Standards
2012 - 2013	Assessment: PSSA and PSSA-M Reading and Math (aligned to PA Academic Standards) at Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
	Assessment: Field Test: PSSA English Language Arts (aligned to PA Common Core Standards) at Grades 3, 4, 5
	Assessment: PSSA Writing (aligned to PA Academic Standards) at Grades 5, 8
	Assessment: PSSA and PSSA-M Science (aligned to PA Academic Standards) at Grades 4, 8
2013 - 2014	* Assessment: Keystone Exams – Algebra I, Biology, Literature <sup>1</sup>
	* Assessment: PSSA English Language Arts and Math (aligned to PA Common Core Standards) Implementation at Grades 3, 4, 5
	Assessment: Field Test: PSSA English Language Arts (aligned to PA Common Core Standards) at Grades 6, 7, 8
	Assessment: PSSA and PSSA-M Reading and Math (aligned to PA Academic Standards) at Grades 6, 7, 8
	Assessment: PSSA Writing (aligned to PA Academic Standards) at Grades 8
	Assessment: PSSA and PSSA-M Science (aligned to PA Academic Standards) at Grades 4, 8
2014 - 2015	* Assessment: PSSA English Language Arts and Math (aligned to PA Common Core Standards) at Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 (Implementation at Grades 6, 7, 8)
	Assessment: PSSA and PSSA-M Science (aligned to PA Academic Standards) at Grades 4, 8
	Assessment: Keystone Exams – Algebra I, Biology, Literature

<sup>1</sup> Keystone Exams will be administered at the end of both fall and spring semesters.

## PA COMMON CORE GUIDING QUESTIONS

Have we acknowledged the instructional shifts?  
 Is the rigor of our curriculum aligned with PA Common Core?  
 Do our local assessments mirror the rigor of PA Common Core?  
 Are we adequately addressing Tier 3 vocabulary?

### English Language Arts

1. What evidence exists to support strong engagement of the learner with text?

2. Do we have the right balance of informational and literary text?

3. How do the Common Core exemplars for text complexity and writing compare to our expectations?

### Mathematics

1. Is the content grade appropriate?

2. What evidence exists that we are addressing the Standards for Mathematical Practices throughout the curriculum?

3. Does the curriculum address procedural skills and conceptual understanding to ensure students are learning and applying the critical information they need to succeed at higher levels?