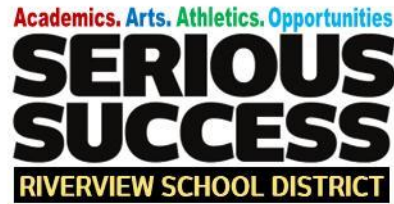




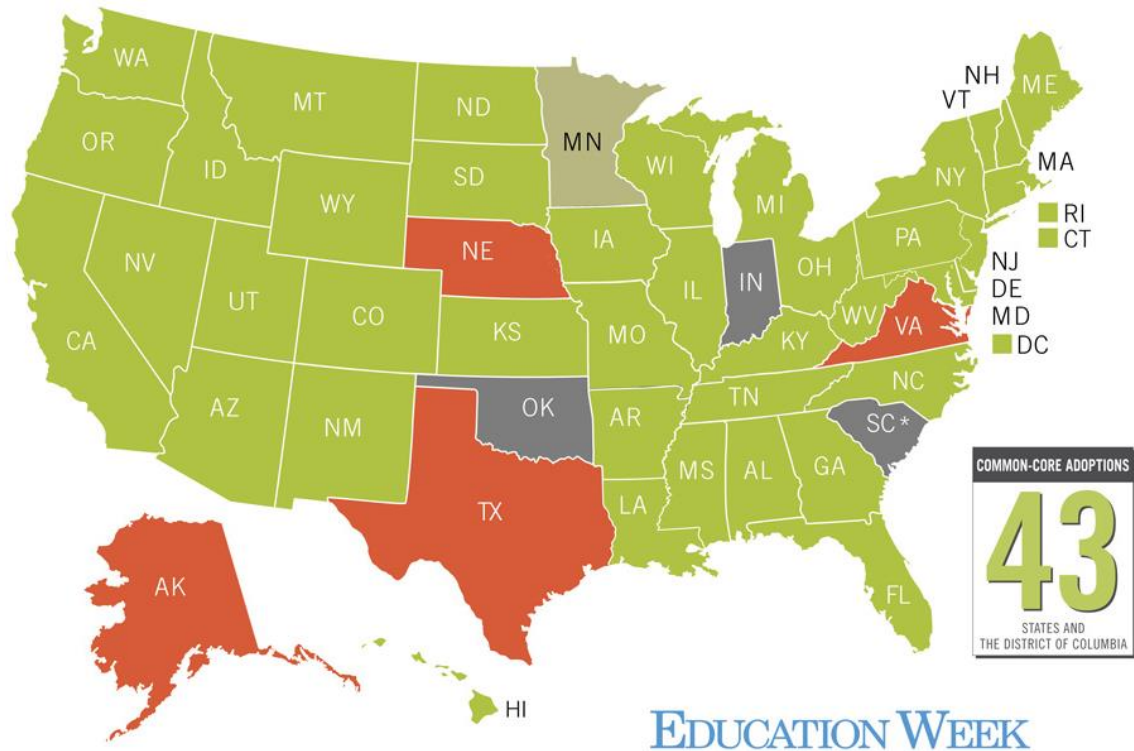
Overview of the PA Common Core Standards January 2016



What are the Common Core Standards?

- The Common Core Standards have been in existence for just over five years.
- 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.
- The standards are intended to fully prepare students for the future with the belief that the standards will our position our communities to compete successfully in the global economy.

Common Core Adoption by State



- State adopted the Common Core (43 plus D.C.)
- State did not adopt the Common Core (4)
- State adopted the Common Core in only one subject (1)
- State reversed its adoption of the Common Core (3)

*New standards take effect in 2015-2016

What are the PA Common Core Standards?

Pennsylvania adopted the Common Core Standards, but they are known as the “PA Common Core Standards”. This allows PDE to exercise some control over minor revisions to the Common Core Standards, as deemed appropriate for students in Pennsylvania.

PDE Assessment Transition (2013-Current)

- Field test items on 2013 and 2014 PSSA
- Grades 3-5 ELA Assessment (Reading and Writing) given in 2015
- fully aligned Common Core PSSA in 2015

Important Facts

- PSSA in 2015 was an English Language Arts Assessment with reading and writing in grades 3-8.
- Revised PSSA is more rigorous and more difficult, requiring students have a greater depth of knowledge.
- keystones are Common Core aligned and replaced PSSA exams at the secondary level in 2013 (grade 11) with the tests at this current time being Algebra I, Biology, Literature. More exams are may be developed in the future. Keystone Exams are end of course exams, meaning students will take them when they finish the class, regardless of grade level. These exams will be based on higher level questions focusing on the more rigorous PA Common Core Standards.

Some of the Differences

PA Common Core ELA	PA Common Core Math
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Balancing Information and Literary Text• Building Knowledge in the Disciplines• Increased Complexity• Text-Based Answers• Writing from Sources (**use of evidence to make an argument)• Building Academic Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus• Coherence• Fluency• Deep Understanding• Applications• Dual Intensity (practicing and understanding)

What we are doing...

- We use EdInsight Curriculum Mapper to develop a more permanent grade level PA Common Core Standards-aligned curriculum map for all content areas.
- We have implemented or upgraded curricular resources that more fully align with the Common Core Standards (examples: Reading Street (K-6); Everyday Math (K-6); Big Ideas (Math 7-8); Riverview K-12 Writing Framework; and others)
- Provide ongoing training for Teachers to offer new instructional strategies and a greater understanding of the assessments used to measure student mastery and growth with regard to the PA Common Core Standards.