

Changes to New York State Standards, Curricula, and Assessments

As of March 12, 2012

As part of the Regents Reform Agenda, New York State has embarked on a comprehensive reform initiative to ensure that schools prepare students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college and in their careers.

To realize the goals of this agenda, changes will occur in standards, curricula, and assessments. These changes will impact pedagogy and, ultimately, student learning. As a result, New York State has provided information about the necessary shifts (<http://engageNY.org/resource/common-core-shifts/>) in instruction, and is deeply engaged in a revision of the current State assessment program to address both the content and spirit of the shifts. This document provides an overview of what these key changes are and when they will take place for ELA and mathematics.

What changes are coming in ELA and mathematics?

With the adoption of the New York State P-12 Common Core Learning Standards, both instruction and assessments will change. For the 2011-12 school year, both instruction and assessments remain focused on the New York State Learning Standards in ELA and Mathematics that were approved in 2005; however, it is expected that every teacher implement at least one Common Core-aligned instructional unit this academic year. At the start of the 2012-13 school year, it is expected that all ELA and mathematics instruction will be aligned to the Common Core.

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) is already engaging teachers, administrators, and education experts across the State and nation in the creation of curriculum resources, professional development materials, test specifications, and other test-related instructional materials that will help with the transition to the Common Core. Educator resources, including curriculum units and modules, will begin to be made available as early as Summer 2012. Educators are also involved in the creation of the new State assessments to ensure that the assessments measure what is taught in New York State classrooms.

While students will be assessed using the new tests starting in the 2012-13 school year, educators who are interested in starting early on aligning their classroom practices to the new standards should check the EngageNY.org website for the most up-to-date information on the transition.

**New York State is
Changing its
Standards...**

**And New York State's
Assessments are
Changing with
Them**

When will the ELA and mathematics tests change?

Beginning in the 2012-13 school year, the content of the grade 3-8 tests will be aligned to the Common Core. Similarly, some Regents Exams will be aligned to the Common Core beginning in the 2013-14 school year, and the rest will follow suit in the 2014-15 school year. While content will differ from that of past exams, students should still expect to see a combination of multiple-choice and constructed-response items. New York State is a Governing State in the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness of College and Careers (PARCC). PARCC is scheduled to have computer-based assessments that measure the Common Core State Standards in ELA and Mathematics in grades 3 – 11 beginning in 2014-15. The Board of Regents will decide at a later time whether to adopt the PARCC assessments for New York State. Learn more about PARCC at <http://www.parcconline.org>.

New York State Assessment Transition Plan: ELA and Mathematics

As of March 12, 2012 (Subject to Revision)

Assessment – Subject / Grade	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
ELA				
Grades 3-8	Aligned to 2005 Standards	Aligned to the Common Core		PARCC ¹
Grade 11 Regents	Aligned to 2005 Standards		Regents Exam Aligned to the Common Core ²	Regents Exam Aligned to the Common Core / PARCC ^{1, 2}
Math				
Grades 3-8	Aligned to 2005 Standards	Aligned to the Common Core		PARCC ¹
Algebra I		Aligned to 2005 Standards	Regents Exams Aligned to the Common Core ^{2, 3}	
Geometry			Regents Exams Aligned to the Common Core / PARCC ^{1, 2, 3}	
Algebra II			Aligned to the 2005 Standards	
Additional State Assessments				
NYSAA ⁴	Aligned to 2005 Standards		Aligned to the Common Core	NCSC ⁵
NYSESLAT	Aligned to 1996 Standards	Aligned to the Common Core		

¹ The PARCC assessments are scheduled to be operational in 2014-15 and are subject to adoption by the New York State Board of Regents. The PARCC assessments are still in development. All PARCC assessments will be aligned to the Common Core.

²The PARCC consortium is developing ELA and mathematics assessments that will cover grades 3-11. New York State will continue to monitor the development of these assessments to determine how the PARCC assessments might intersect with the Regents Exams. Note that all new Regents Exams and PARCC assessments will be implemented starting with the end-of-year administration, rather than the winter or summer administrations.

³ The names of New York State's Mathematics Regents Exams are expected to change to reflect the new alignment of these assessments to the Common Core. For additional information about the upper-level mathematics course sequence and related standards, see the "Traditional Pathway" section of Common Core Mathematics Appendix A (<http://engageNY.org/news/traditional-course-pathway-for-high-school-mathematics-courses-approved/>).

⁴This transition plan is specific to the NYSAA in ELA and mathematics.

⁵New York State is a member of the NCSC national alternate assessment consortium that is engaged in research and development of new alternate assessments for alternate achievement standards. The NCSC assessments are scheduled to be operational in 2014-15 and are subject to adoption by the New York State Board of Regents.

How will the instructional shifts demanded by the Common Core be reflected in the ELA and mathematics assessments?

The Common Core State Standards for ELA/Literacy and Mathematics will bring large changes in what is expected from a teacher's instructional approach. In ELA, these shifts will be characterized by an intense focus on complex, grade-appropriate non-fiction and fiction texts that require the application of academic vocabulary and other key college- and career-readiness skills.

In mathematics courses, the Common Core State Standards demand that teachers focus their instruction on fewer, more central standards (<http://engageny.org/resource/priorities-in-common-core-standards-for-mathematical-content/>), thereby providing room to build core understandings and linkages between mathematical concepts and skills.

More specifically, the changes that teachers should expect to focus their instruction around will involve six key shifts in both ELA and mathematics (a more detailed description of these shifts can be found at <http://engageny.org/resource/common-core-shifts/>). Ultimately, each of the six shifts in both subjects will be evident in the new assessments. Presented on the next page is a summary of the ways that instructors can expect the new ELA and mathematics assessments will differ from past assessments through the lens of the six shifts.

NYSED will soon release additional resources that will assist teachers in understanding the changes that are happening to New York State's assessments.

Check back soon to EngageNY.org for test specifications, sample items, and details on the ways in which each assessment is changing in content and form.

Six Shifts in ELA Assessments

Shift 1: PK-5 Balancing Informational & Literary Texts	Passages will be authentic, and will be balanced between informational and literary texts.
Shift 2: 6-12, Knowledge in the Disciplines	Assessments will contain knowledge-based questions about the informational text; students will not need outside knowledge to respond.
Shift 3: Staircase of Complexity	Passage selection will be based on text complexity that is appropriate to grade level per Common Core.
Shift 4: Text-Based Answers Shift 5: Writing from Sources	Questions will require students to marshal evidence from the text, including from paired passages.
Shift 6: Academic Vocabulary	Students will be tested directly on the meaning of pivotal, common terms, the definition of which can be discerned from the text. Academic vocabulary will also be tested indirectly through general comprehension of the text.

Six Shifts in Mathematics Assessments

Shift 1: Focus	Priority standards will be the focus of the assessments. Other standards will be deemphasized.
Shift 2: Coherence	Assessments will reflect the progression of content and concepts as depicted in the standards across grade levels.
Shift 3: Fluency	It will be assumed that students possess the required fluencies as articulated through grade 8; as such, students will not be allowed to use calculators in grades 3-5. Students will be allowed to use four-function calculators with a square root key or scientific calculators in grade 6 and scientific calculators in grades 7-8.
Shift 4: Deep Understanding	Each standard will be assessed from multiple perspectives, while not veering from the primary target of measurement for the standard.
Shift 5: Application Shift 6: Dual Intensity	Students will be expected to know grade-level mathematical content with fluency and to know which mathematical concepts to employ to solve real-world mathematics problems.

How and when will changes occur in curriculum and instruction to align with the new ELA and mathematics assessments?

As a result of the increased rigor of the Common Core State Standards, NYSED will be approving and releasing Common Core-aligned curriculum resources, which will be freely available to teachers throughout the state. NYSED will also be facilitating curriculum-based professional development to aid teachers' implementation of the new standards.

Curriculum resources have been available to educators since the summer of 2011 in both ELA and mathematics to provide exemplars on what Common Core-aligned instruction can and should look like in the classroom. By the late summer/fall of 2012, new curriculum modules will be released to educators, and will be accompanied by curriculum-based professional development. By the summer of 2013, educators will have access to a full menu of open-source ELA and mathematics curriculum modules across grades P-12, all of which will be accompanied by curriculum-based professional development.

Curriculum modules will include:

- Year-long scope and sequence documents
- Module framing/overview documents
- Performance tasks (for administration in the middle and at the end of each module)
- Lesson plans
- Lesson plan supporting materials (class work, homework, etc.)

New York State Curriculum Transition Plan: ELA and Mathematics

As of March 12, 2012 (Subject to Revision)

	Summer 2011	SY ¹ 2011-2012	Summer 2012	SY 2012-2013	Summer 2013	SY 2013-2014	Summer 2014	SY 2014-2015
Instructional Expectations		Teachers try CCSS ² -aligned instruction		Full CCSS implementation in schools for grades 3-8		Full CCSS implementation in high schools (to coincide with roll-out of new CCSS-aligned high school assessments)		
Tools / Resources	EngageNY.org Website launches	Exemplary curriculum modules available for ELA and mathematics on EngageNY.org	By fall 2012, initial vendor-produced ELA and mathematics exemplary modules are available on EngageNY.org	By spring 2013, additional ELA and mathematics exemplary modules are available on EngageNY.org	By late summer 2013, 100% of ELA and mathematics exemplary modules are available on EngageNY.org	Online PD ³ available for training on curriculum modules through EngageNY.org		
Professional Development	State PD Institute (August 1-5) for Network Teams included 1.5 days of training in CCSS, 1.5 days of training in DDI ⁴ , 2 days of training in TLE ⁵ ; including guidance and materials for turnkey training on all three	Monthly Network Team Meetings (2-3 days in length) on CCSS, DDI and TLE. Tools and resources available for school-based PD on Common Core implementation on EngageNY.org	Curriculum-based PD aligned with the CCSS occurs for 3-5 days during August	Ongoing CCSS rollout and curriculum-based PD		Intensive training on PARCC assessments and alignment to curricula, if Board of Regents adopts PARCC		

¹SY = School Year; ²CCSS = Common Core State Standards; ³ PD = Professional Development; ⁴ DDI = Data-Driven Instruction; ⁵TLE = Teacher and Leader Effectiveness (i.e., APPR)