Common Core State Standards 2011-2012

Overview

In the 2011-12 school year, Chicago Public Schools will be launching a multi-year initiative aimed at establishing a coherent curriculum and assessment system based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The CCSS describe what students should know and be able to do at every grade level in mathematics and literacy in order to be prepared for college and career and present a terrific opportunity to increase expectations for teaching and learning across the system.

This year, the District also restructured its “field” offices. The new structure consists of 14 elementary and 5 high school “Network” offices that are then clustered into larger geographic “Collaboratives.” The new Networks are community-based and each Collaborative includes a geographic set of schools PreK-12. This new structure provides a vehicle for creating better alignment PreK-12 to college and career readiness across all grades.

The objectives for our work on the CCSS in 2011-12 are as follows:

• All schools and Network teams will become familiar with the CCSS at all grade levels
• All schools and Network teams will learn how to plan (long-term and short-term) from the standards
• All schools will learn what standards-based grade-level texts and tasks look like
• All schools and Network teams will learn how to create rigorous performance tasks aligned to the standards

In order to be successful, the district will use five major vehicles to launch the CCSS across the system:

1) Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) sessions- Each quarter, all Networks will bring together schools’ Instructional Leadership Teams for full-day professional development sessions. These sessions will focus on two inter-related outcomes and will be co-facilitated by the central office PD team and Network teams:
   a. A shared understanding of the new Common Core State Standards and how to engage teachers in short-term and long-term planning using the standards
   b. The development and monitoring of a clearly articulated Theory of Action and Action Plan aimed at student mastery of the standards

The training of ILTs is essential because a move to the new CCSS will require a dramatic shift in the daily work of schools, which requires effective shared leadership. These trainings will also allow for greater collaboration between elementary and high schools, as high school ILTs will attend the sessions alongside the elementary schools in a particular Network.

2) Training for Network Teams- Once a month, the new Network teams will participate in professional development focused on building their coaching capacity to work closely with principals, ILTs, and teacher teams in relation to the new CCSS. It will also build their capacity to support short and long-term planning using the CCSS in teacher teams.
3) **Saturday training/work sessions**- In addition, separate optional Saturday training/work sessions will be offered to teachers to better facilitate direct communication of the essential understandings and allow time for teachers to collaborate with their peers. This work will be jointly led by the central CCSS Work team and by coaches across the Networks.

4) **CCSS Benchmark Assessments**- The district will launch a quarterly CCSS-aligned benchmark assessment in literacy and mathematics for 2nd-8th grade so that educators and parents can begin to understand the level at which students are expected to perform and how students are doing at reaching that level of performance.

5) **Early Adopter Schools**- Finally, a sub-group of schools will participate in more intensive professional development with the standards—helping to define our common curriculum along with performance tasks and exemplars of student work and laying the groundwork for 2012-13.

**Timeline**

- **September 20-29:** Quarter 1 Network ILT Sessions (see next page for specific school dates)
- **October 17-Novemeber 4:** Quarter 1 CCSS Benchmark
- **October 22, 29:** Optional Quarter 1 Teacher work session
- **December 6-15:** Quarter 2 Network ILT Sessions
- **January 11-20:** Quarter 2 CCSS Benchmark
- **January 21, 28:** Optional Quarter 2 Teacher work session
- **February 14-24:** Quarter 3 Network IL Sessions
- **April 9-17:** Quarter 3 CCSS Benchmark
- **April 14, 21:** Optional Quarter 3 Teacher work session
- **April 24-May 3:** Quarter 4 Network ILT Sessions
- **May 29-June 6:** Quarter 4 CCSS Benchmark

**Network Support**

In addition to central office support, Network teams will be essential partners in this work. They will:

- Continually support principals, teachers and the community in moving toward a greater understanding of the Common Core standards and the necessary changes to instruction, planning and school structures
- Co-facilitate professional development
- Create and implement differentiated systems of follow-up and support for ILTs and grade level/course-alike teams to carry out unit planning/formative assessment development