

Changes to New York State Standards, Curricula, and Assessments: ELA and Mathematics

As of April 22, 2013

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 focused on the New York State Learning Standards and Core Curriculum in ELA and Mathematics that were approved in 1996 (Math revised in 2005); however, it is expected that every teacher implement at least one Common Core-aligned instructional unit this academic year. For the 2012-13 school year, all grade 3-8 ELA and mathematics instruction is aligned to the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS). All students first entering Grade 9 in the 2013-14 school year or thereafter must be provided with a high school English course of study aligned to the CCLS and pass the new Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core), which is designed to be administered at the end of Grade 11, to meet graduation requirements. Any student who in the 2013-14 school year or thereafter, regardless of grade of enrollment, begins his or her first commencement-level math course culminating in a Regents Exam in June 2014 or later must take the New York State CCLS Regents Exam in mathematics that corresponds to that course, as available, and be provided with Common Core instruction. Most typically, this first course will be Algebra I (Common Core).

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

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

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, were 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.

Educators who are interested in aligning their classroom practices to the new standards should check the [EngageNY.org](http://www.engageNY.org) website for the most up-to-date information on the transition.

When will the ELA and mathematics tests change?

Beginning in the 2012-13 school year, the content of the grade 3-8 tests will measure the CCLS. Similarly, some Regents Exams will measure the CCLS beginning in the 2013-14 school year, and the rest will follow suit in the 2014-15 and 2015-16 school years. 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 as early as 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 April 22, 2013 (Subject to Revision)

Assessment – Subject / Grade	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	
ELA¹						
Grades 3-8	Measures the 1996 Standards and 2005 Core Curriculum	Measures the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS)		PARCC ²		
Grade 11 Regents	Measures the 1996 Standards and 2005 Core Curriculum		Regents Exam Measures the Common Core / PARCC ^{2,3}			
Math						
Grades 3-8	Measures the 2005 Revised Standards and Core Curriculum	Measures the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS)		PARCC ¹		
Algebra I		Regents Exam Measures the Common Core / PARCC ^{2,3,4}				
Geometry		Measures the 2005 Revised Standards and Core Curriculum	Regents Exam Measures the Common Core / PARCC ^{2,3,4}			
Algebra II			Measures the 2005 Revised Standards and Core Curriculum	Measures the 2005 Revised Standards and Core Curriculum	Measures the 2005 Revised Standards and Core Curriculum	Regents Exam Measures the CCLS / PARCC ^{2,3,4}
Additional State Assessments						
NYSAA ⁵	Measure the 1996 ELA Standards and 2005 Math Standards		Measures the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS)			
NYSESLAT ⁶	Measure the 1996 Standards	Measurement Change: Phase One		Measurement Change: Phase Two		

¹ A budget request has been made for the 2013-14 school year for grade 9 and 10 ELA exams.

² 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 measure the Common Core.

³ **ELA:** All students first entering Grade 9 in the 2013-14 school year or thereafter must be provided with a high school English course of study aligned to the CCLS and pass the new Regents Exam in ELA (Common Core), which is designed to be administered at the end of Grade 11, to meet graduation requirements. **Math:** Any student who in the 2013-14 school year or thereafter, regardless of grade of enrollment, begins his or her first commencement-level math course culminating in a Regents Exam in June 2014 or later must take the New York State CCLS Regents Exam in mathematics that corresponds to that course, as available, and be provided with Common Core instruction. **For the full policy on the transition to the Common Core Regents Exams**, including which students may take old and new exams, please see: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/math/ccmath/transitioncc.pdf>. **The 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, and could begin as early as the 2014-15 school year.

⁴ New York State will be using the configuration of standards within courses and the cluster emphases from the PARCC Model Content Frameworks for test and curriculum module construction for grade 8 and high school. For additional information, see: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/math/ccmath/parccmcf.pdf>

⁵ This transition plan is specific to the NYSAA in ELA and mathematics. New 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.

⁶ To align the NYSESLAT to the Common Core Learning Standards, NYSED will utilize a two-phased process. In Phase One, NYSED is making revisions to the NYSESLAT that will be administered in 2013 and 2014 guided by both the Common Core Learning Standards and feedback from the field. Changes during this phase include new question types to help the NYSESLAT better measure the Common Core, improved test administration procedures, and an increase in the number of grade bands from five to six. In Phase Two, additional revisions will be made to the NYSESLAT to fully measure the Common Core Learning Standards and new Bilingual Standards. For more information, see <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/nyseslat/about-nyseslat.pdf>. Additionally, note that NYSED will be replacing the LAB-R with a new identification exam, aligned to the new NYSESLAT, which will be implemented starting in Fall 2013 and will be required of all new entrants by Spring 2014.

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 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.

Since the summer of 2011, curriculum resources have been available to educators 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 were released to educators, and were accompanied by curriculum-based professional development. By school year 2013-2014, 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.)
- Formative assessments at the unit level

New York State Curriculum Transition Plan: ELA and Mathematics

As of April 22, 2013 (Subject to Revision)

New York State intends to have full CCSS implementation in schools for grades 3-8 in academic school year 2012-2013 and full CCSS implementation in high schools (to coincide with roll-out of new CCSS-aligned high school assessments) in academic year 2013-2014.

2012-2013 School Year	Summer 2013	2013-2014 School Year
<p>Math and ELA: By school year 2012-2013, a limited number of exemplary modules were available on Engageny.org.</p>	<p>Math P-5 and ELA K-5: By late Summer 2013, at least half of the State-provided curriculum modules will be on EngageNY.org.</p> <p>Math only: Full math curriculum for grade 9 will be available on EngageNY.org by late summer 2013.</p>	<p>Math and ELA: By December 2013, full set of State-provided P-8 curriculum modules will be on EngageNY.org. For Pre-K ELA, 75% of the curriculum modules will be available by December 2013, and 100% will be available by February 2014.</p> <p>Math and ELA: By March 2014, full set of State-provided P-12 curriculum modules will be on EngageNY.org.</p>