

FALMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT / DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

To: PK-12 Staff
cc: Central Office Staff, Principals, Assistant Principals
Date: April 28, 2011
From: Liz McGonagle
Re: MA Curriculum Frameworks and the Integration of the Common Core State Standards

New MA Curriculum Framework Overview

As you may know, in December 2010 the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adopted new MA curriculum frameworks in *English Language Arts and Literacy* and *Mathematics* that incorporated the national Common Core State Standards. The new frameworks were written explicitly to define the knowledge and skills that students must master to be college and career ready by the end of high school. Although there is alignment between these national standards and the former MA frameworks, we will need to review and integrate these standards into the district's current PK-12 curriculum, transitioning over the next 2 years. To prepare for this shift, school and district curriculum leaders have attended presentations throughout the year to learn more about the standards, the timeline for implementation and the implications for teaching, learning and assessment.

The MA Framework for English Language Arts and Literacy establishes new requirements not only for English language arts but also for literacy in history/social studies, science and technical subjects. The majority of ELA standards are very familiar and overall the changes will not be drastic. However, the standards insist that instruction in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language is a *shared responsibility* within every school. It acknowledges that all teachers, in every grade and across every content area, have a role in the development of literacy skills.

The *MA Framework for Mathematics* establishes new grade level standards that are designed to be more focused and rigorous to help ensure that all students are college and career ready in mathematics by the end of high school. The new mathematics standards are written for individual grades (not ranges) and are more focused and coherent, reflecting the curricula design of high-performing countries around the world.

Curriculum Alignment Committees

I am currently organizing district-wide committees to begin the curriculum review and realignment process. These committees will meet this summer and throughout the next school year. If you have a strong interest in curriculum development and would like to serve on a committee please notify your principal.

- The **ELA Committee** Co-chairs: Joanne Holcomb, 7-12 English Department Head, and Moira Rodgers, PreK-6 Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator
- The **Mathematics Committee** Co-chairs: Kathy Allen, 7-12 Mathematics Department Head, and Karen St. Germain, Morse Pond teacher

Where can you find more information about the new frameworks? The 2011 Frameworks, updates, and other resources are available at:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/candi/commoncore>

Which states have adopted the Common Core Standards?

Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota (ELA/Literacy only), Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

What is the timeline to implement the new frameworks and update the MCAS assessments?

Over the next 2 years we need to transition to the new frameworks so that our students will be prepared for the revised MCAS. The MCAS is scheduled to be retired by 2014-15 and all Massachusetts students will take new College and Career Readiness Assessments currently being developed. These new assessments will reportedly be technology based, formative evaluations administered throughout the year to allow for remediation. For more information visit <http://www.achieve.org/assessments-0>.

The MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) communicated the following transition plan for grades 3 to 8; the transition plan for grade 10 is still being developed.

Year	Description
2010-11	Initial Planning: No changes in frameworks standards or MCAS
2011-12	Partial Implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Curriculum focus will be on standards common to former and new frameworks;MCAS will assess selected standards from the <u>former</u> frameworks not included in the new Frameworks.
Spring 2011	DESE will release a list of the standards that will be assessed on the 2012 MCAS.
2012-2013	Near Full Implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Curriculum focus on standards common to former and new frameworks;MCAS will assess <u>selected</u> standards from new frameworks not included in former frameworks. (DESE will release this list in the spring)
Mid 2012	Similar standards development for science and engineering, with standards expected to be released in mid-2012 with a transition timeline announced by DESE.
Late 2012	Standards for English Language Learners, Comprehensive Health, History and Social Science, the Arts, and Foreign Languages will be added to the revision cycle by DESE.
Fall 2013-2014	Full Implementation of Curriculum: Curriculum: PK-12 programs should have curriculum and instruction fully aligned to the new MA Frameworks by the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year.
Spring 2014	Full Implementation of MCAS: MCAS in grades 3-8 will be based exclusively on the <u>new</u> frameworks in spring 2014. The transition plan for grade 10 is still being determined.
Fall 2014-2015	Pending its successful development, Massachusetts will transition to the new College and Career Readiness Assessments currently being created by the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) under the direction of Mitchell Chester, the MA Commissioner of Education. For more information visit http://www.achieve.org/assessments-0 .