

Module 4: Evaluating Existing Curriculum

Duration – 2 hours

The italicized script provides direction for the presenter while the plain text script is the narrative for the presenter.

All handout titles are included in the slide descriptions below and are numbered by slide on the MOODLE.

Overview:

This module is designed to identify essential understandings of the transition process from one's current curriculum based upon PA Academic Standards to the PA Common Core Standards. It points out that there are other factors involved in the process and the importance of those factors to a reliable and valid curriculum to be delivered with fidelity.

Slide 1: *Have Slide 1 on the screen as participants enter the room. Begin by introducing yourself and a bit of background on your job, role, and engagement with PA Common Core.*

Slide 2: This is one of four modules designed to assist educators in understanding and transitioning to PA Common Core.

Slide 3: *Remind participants to sign on to SAS and complete and display their name tents.*

Slide 4: *Ask a participant to read the PA Common Core Standards slide.*
PA Common Core Standards are the guideposts so we can ensure our students are on track for college and career success.

In this module, our focus is on 4 essential questions.

Read each question aloud.

Slide 5: Read silently the snapshot summary of the PA Common Core Standards. I'm going to show you a video that captures the true essence of PA Common Core Standards.

The text on this slide is hyperlinked to a video. Click in the middle of the slide and the video will begin. (2:40 minutes)

Slide 6: *Handout: Keystone/PSSA Implementation Guide*

For a year we have been transitioning our PA Academic Standards based curriculum to the Common Core and now the PA Common Core Curriculum. In May 2012, the State Board approved the revised Chapter 4 regulations. A timeline has been developed for implementation for Common Core aligned PSSA assessments in grades 3-8 and implementation of 5 Keystone Exams.

Slide 7: PDE began preparing us for the transition in the Spring of 2011 with Common Core overviews and document walkthroughs. They provided us with several resources to assist with the transitioning of our current curriculum to PA Common Core.

- Crosswalks
- Emphasis Guides
- AAs and EC aligned to PA Common Core

Slide 8: In July 2010, the State Board adopted the Common Core Standards. Since that time the decision was made by the current administration to create a set of PA CC Standards in ELA and Math. A group of PA educators created a draft set of standards that mirror the content and rigor of the Common Core, but reflect the organization and design of the PA Academic Standards.

Slide 9: *Handout: Old PA Common Core PP. 4 – 5*
Handout: New PA Common Core Standards PP 13 – 14
Handout: Venn Diagram

Among the most significant accomplishments of the PA Common Core Standards for ELA are the learning pathways that a student follows as he/she advances from one grade – specific standard to the next, leading to mastery of college and career readiness anchor standards. While the anchor standards serve to provide focus on what matters most for college and career readiness in the area of ELA, coherence is accomplished by the explicit articulation of knowledge and skills along the learning progressions. The specificity of the content within the learning progressions makes the expectations visible and clear for student learning.....in other words, the grade specific standard clearly defines competence at every level of schooling.

Let's take a look...

Compare PA Academic Standards with PA Common Core...look at format and numbering.

With a partner complete the Venn Diagram

Table Talk: Discuss the Venn Diagrams completed at your table.

Randomly select tables to summarize their discussion.

Focus Points and Participant Possible Responses:

- *There is no correspondence of number to number between the two standards*
- *While the PA Academic had 9 Standard Categories our PA Common Core has 5 standard categories.*
- *All PA Common Core Standards start with "CC"*
- *In addition to the common core foundation standards, Pre-K Standards are back-mapped from the Kindergarten Standards.*

PA Common Core State Standards Initiative has increased expectations to strengthen the literacy core in major disciplines for all students. Integrated throughout kindergarten through grade 12, including college and career anchor standards for reading are key requirements that all students must be able to independently and proficiently comprehend texts of increasing complexity.

Slide 10: How does your curriculum stack up to the Common Core?

Is your curriculum considered a rigorous curriculum designed to prepare students for college and careers beyond high school? Why or why not?

Table Talk: Discuss your thought with your table group.

Slide 11: *Handout: The Beginners Guide to Rigor*
Handout: Characteristics of a Rigorous Classroom

What is RIGOR?

To answer that question, not only do we need to look at the PA Common Core Standards, but we also need to consider the level of rigor required by each standard and translate that into a robust curriculum.

We can't begin to address RIGOR until we have an understanding of what RIGOR is.....What is RIGOR? How do we define RIGOR?

On an index card, write your definition of RIGOR.

Turn to your elbow partner on the left and share definitions. Discuss the similarities and differences between your definitions.

You now need the following documents:

- "The Beginners Guide to Rigor"
- "Characteristics of a Rigorous Classroom"

Read "The Beginners Guide to Rigor" and the "Definitions of Rigor" in the "Characteristics of a Rigorous Classroom."

Turn to your elbow partner and talk about what rigor is and what it isn't.

Slide 12: Barbara Blackburn defines Rigor as *Read the bullet points from the slide.*

From the two reading selections, can we all agree that Barbara's definition captures the definitions reflected in the "Characteristics of a Rigorous Classroom" article?

PA Common Core sets a benchmark for Rigor. It's your curriculum that brings rigor to light.

Slide 13: Webb's DOK provides a vocabulary and a frame of reference when thinking about our students and how they engage with the content, offering a common language to understand "rigor" or cognitive demand in assessments, as well as curricular units, lessons and tasks.

Let's listen to Karen Hess's brief overview of Webb's DOK, a framework by which teachers can increase the rigor of student tasks. (*Click on hyperlink in slide to display video.*)

Slide 14: *Handout: PA Common Core Grade 3 or 5 CC.1.3 PP. 10 – 14*
 Handout: DOK Chart Wheel
 Handout: Webb/Bloom Matrix
 Handout: DOK Chart
 Handout: Tri State-ELA-Rubric-V2-04-12-2012
 Handout: Webb-Bloom Matrix

“He who learns and does not think, is lost!
He who thinks but does not learn is in great danger.” Confucius

For this activity you will need:

- Old PA Standards
- PA Common Core
- DOK Chart Wheel
- Depth of Knowledge
- Webb/Bloom Matrix

Let’s take a look at the Curriculum English Grade 8 and Tri State-ELA-Rubric documents. Select two or three standards in both documents. Using the DOK Wheel, determine the level or rigor for each standard. What did you notice?

Discuss what you noticed with a partner.

Have participants report out what was noticed.

Slide 15: Now that we have reviewed PA Common Core and a common definition of rigor...let’s go back to the original question...How does your curriculum align to PA Common Core?

Slide 16: PA Common Core identifies the desired results...“What students should know and do. Curriculum is the blueprint for learning...in other words, it’s the map for how to achieve the outcomes identified through PA Common Core.

Slide 17: Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe define assessment as the umbrella term for the “deliberate use of many methods of gathering evidence of meeting the desired results...PA Common Core Standards.

Table Talk: Discuss the types and quality of assessments used in your district.

Slide 18: *There are videos hyperlinked to this slide. Click in the middle of the each picture to start the video.*

<https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/high-school-literature-lesson-plan>

This is what a strong ELA Curriculum encompasses. And, let's take a look at it in practice.

First let's take a look at a high school discussion.

Click on the photo of the 4 blacked out men. The photo is hyperlinked to the video.

What evidence did you see in the video that supports a "strong curriculum"? Have participants popcorn out their thoughts and provide evidence from the video.

Now let's look at an elementary video that reflects a strong ELA Curriculum.

<https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/analyzing-text-as-a-group>

The picture of the girls is hyperlinked to the video. Click on the picture to view the video.

Again, what evidence did you see in the video that supports a "strong curriculum"? Have participants popcorn out their thoughts and provide evidence from the video.

Slide 19: *Handout: Career and College Ready Analysis Tool*

Bring grade level teachers together to engage in dissecting, deconstructing the PA Common Core standards and to engage in conversation about the level of understanding associated with each standard.

Use the Career and College Ready Analysis Tool to guide the discussion.

Once teachers have a solid understanding of PA Common Core and have analyzed their grade level curriculum; then, it's time to talk across the grades for the vertical alignment. Identify critical essential learning through

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conversation. It's important to know the standards and can articulate them between the grades. Once you've done that...you're ready to actively transition to common core and align your curriculum.

Slide 20: *Handout: Transitioning the Curriculum Next Steps*
(From Slide 14 Tri State-ELA-Rubric-V2-04-12-2012 on the back of Transitioning the Curriculum Next Steps document)

The key to successful transition of your curriculum to PA Common Core and the creation of a high quality, viable curriculum is...a deep understanding of the true meaning of PA Common Core.

Slide 21: *Handout: Reflection*

Next Steps

Complete the PA Common Core Action Planning Guide

Complete the reflection triangle independently.

Random Reporter: Share out responses.