



The Rhode Island Department of
Elementary and Secondary Education

Quarterly Updates

June 2012



Rhode Island's
Transition to the
Common Core



Comprehensive Assessment System (CAS) Webinar Series

Throughout the year, the Office of Instruction, Assessment, & Curriculum hosted monthly webinars on different assessment topics. These webinars were attended primarily by district and school-level administrators, who used them as an opportunity to get up to speed on these topics and ask both clarifying and probing questions. Each webinar is archived on our Comprehensive Assessment System webpage: www.ride.ri.gov/assessment/CAS.aspx. We encourage you to access them at your convenience to learn more about any of the topics listed below!

Archived webinars:

<i>September</i>	Defining a CAS and how it supports other RTTT initiatives
<i>October</i>	All things NECAP CAS & Student Learning Objectives Taking Inventory Using the Assessment Maps
<i>November</i>	Follow up on Assessment Maps & Next Steps
<i>December</i>	Validity & Reliability
<i>January</i>	Cultural and Linguistic Demands of Assessment
<i>February</i>	Interpreting Data
<i>March</i>	RTI & Data-based Decision Making
<i>April</i>	PARCC
<i>May</i>	The Rhode Island Growth Model
<i>June</i>	Assessment in Early Childhood Education

RTTT Assessment Initiatives Updates

The Office of Instruction, Assessment & Curriculum is developing several exciting new resources which will roll out in the fall of 2012. These include the Formative Assessment Online PD, the Interim Assessment System, and the Data Use Professional Development. Read on for a quick update on our progress through the spring and a preview of the milestones that we'll be working toward this summer.

Formative Assessment RIDE is developing a series of online professional development modules on the formative assessment process. Topics addressed in the course include learning goals, success criteria, learning progressions, strategies for eliciting evidence of student learning, descriptive feedback, and self and peer assessment. These interactive and multi-modal modules will be accessible to all educators through the Instructional Management System (IMS).

[Formative Assessment Professional Development April – June 2012 Recap](#)

The pace of the Formative Assessment Professional Development project has certainly picked up this spring as we completed our pilot and **began the technical build of the online modules**. We've been out in districts, filming teachers from many grade levels and in various content areas implementing the formative assessment process. It's been encouraging to hear teachers reflect on the **changes they've made to their practice as a result of this professional development** in such a short amount of time!

We have been hard at work transforming the "Linking Learning & Assessment in Rhode Island Schools" course content into **dynamic, interactive online modules**. These modules will include direct instruction on the formative assessment process, as well testimonials from local teachers and leaders, assessments of learning, opportunities for video analysis, and more. Modules 1 & 2 will be accessible through the Instructional Management System in September and the full course will be complete by the New Year.

In addition, we have been working with LEAs as they develop their plans for implementation of the Formative Assessment PD. We are excited by the fact that **more than half of all districts** have chosen to make formative assessment a focus for next year through the use of RIDE's Professional Development resource. The remaining districts will launch in the fall of 2013.

Finally, the administrators who were involved in our pilot suggested that it would be helpful to provide **orientation materials to principals** whose schools will be launching the course this fall as far in advance as possible. To that end, we will be posting a **recorded webinar, as well as supporting materials** that highlight key points from each module, points of flexibility for implementation, and connections to other RTTT initiatives on the Formative Assessment page of the RIDE website by the end of June. Stay tuned!

[Formative Assessment PD July – Sept 2012 Preview](#)

We will continue to work on the technical build of the online modules throughout the summer, in preparation of the fall launch. Also in development are **Facilitator Guides for** each module, which will include discussion questions, ideas for troubleshooting, and extension activities.

As you know, LEAs may choose to use funds allocated to this initiatives on stipends for facilitators to lead the formative assessment work. Though LEAs have flexibility to determine who (if anyone) will serve as facilitators, having a teacher leader per building as a champion this work will assist with implementation. **Orientation for facilitators will begin in August** – dates, times, and locations of these ½-day sessions are posted on eRIDE. Follow-up support for facilitators will be provided via webinar throughout the academic year.

For more information on the Formative Assessment PD, please contact Laura Kacewicz at 401-222-8993 or Laura.Kacewicz@ride.ri.gov.

Interim: *The interim assessments are online assessments for grades 3-11 in Math and ELA. The suite of assessments will eventually include an item bank and test building engine for Math, ELA, Science, and Social Studies. The first set of assessments—the fixed form tests—are slated to roll out in the fall of 2012. They will be available through the IMS.*

[Interim Assessments April – June 2012 Recap](#)

The past quarter has been a busy time for the Interim Assessments project – we held an **item review of mathematics and ELA content** with approximately 120 educators across the state. This feedback is currently being used to revise the items for the **upcoming fixed form assessments**. We also began reaching out to LEAs to confirm their plans for implementing the Interim Assessments. As we reach out and confirm plans, we've also been answering many questions that have come up, such as training details and dates. Based upon these questions we'll be sharing answers with everyone periodically throughout the summer. Lastly, we continued to finalize the **scope of the test construction tool**, which will allow for the **creation of local assessments**, including what features will be available for the January 2013 release.

[Interim Assessments July – Sept 2012 Preview](#)

Over the next few months we'll be preparing for the **initial release of the interim assessment system** in the fall. Although the tests will be available in November, we'll begin training key educators from LEAs and schools in September. This training will be a ½ day training covering using the system, assigning students to tests, scoring practices, understanding how results will be reported, and how to carry this training back to teachers. We'll also be busy planning for the **training on scoring assessments** – remember that teachers will need to score the constructed-response items on the test (approximately 3 items per grade and content area). The scoring training will primarily be online and include information around good scoring practices, samples of items to practice scoring, as well as samples of scored student responses. We'll also be engaging in **another item review process** – in August educators from across the state will have another opportunity to review mathematics and ELA content in grades 3-11. If any educators are interested please have them contact Jessica Brown (Jessica.Brown@ride.ri.gov) – a stipend will be provided for participation.

Data Use Professional Development: *The Data Use PD is currently in development and will launch in August of 2012. This professional development will be targeted towards school leadership teams and focus on the use of data to inform decision-making.*

[Data Use PD April – June 2012 Recap](#)

RIDE has been hard at work for the last three months developing and tailoring the content of the professional development series on the use of data for Rhode Island educators. By listening to feedback from the field, using the results from the needs assessment, and continually vetting and revising the training content, RI educators will have access to **a rigorous, tiered professional development series** beginning in August 2012.

LEA leaders and principals participating in Year 1 of the training (2012-13 school year) have been asked to select educators to participate in the Data Use Professional Development Series. **School Data Leadership Teams (or SDLTs, for short) were formed** at each participating school with the principal and three additional building educators for a total of four participants per school. Additionally, districts also selected one or more District Data Liaison(s) to join the SDLTs at the trainings in order to better provide data use supports and collaborative opportunities for educators within the LEA. For more information or guidance on selecting SDLT members and District Data Liaisons, see the Data Use Professional Development webpage at www.ride.ri.gov/Assessment/DataUsePD.aspx under the Resources tab.

RIDE has also reached out to participating Year 1 districts and schools and scheduled dates and locations for the **Data Use Professional Development 3-day intensive institute in August and September**. If you are not sure about dates, location, or participation, please contact your district's central office for more information, or Lindsay Wepman at Lindsay.Wepman@ride.ri.gov.

Data Use PD July – Sept 2012 Preview

To best prepare the participants for the Data Use Professional Development Series, RIDE will be **hosting webinars the week of July 9-13**. Join us to ask questions about the trainings, or watch a recording available after the webinar. The dates and times for the live webinars are as follows:

District Data Liaison Webinar – Tuesday, July 10 from 1:30pm-2:00pm

School Data Leadership Team Webinar – Thursday, July 12 from 9:00am-9:30am

Starting in August, data coaches will begin meeting with their cohorts and **delivering the 3-day intensive institutes for all participating Year 1 schools**. SDLTs with similar needs have been grouped together based on level of school, previous experience using data and working collaboratively, and geographic location. RIDE will also schedule the remainder of the 10-day Data Use PD Series and schedule each SDLT's first on-site visit with the Data Coaches. Data coaches will visit with every school in their cohorts before Winter Break to provide **individualized, on-site coaching to their SDLTs**.

Using feedback and evaluations from the initial trainings, RIDE will continue to **develop and tweak its training materials** for the remainder of the school year to ensure that all participants are receiving tailored, up-to-date professional development.

CAS Feedback Survey

Our goal is to create resources and tools that are relevant, clear, and useful. Please take a moment to fill out our short survey about your use of the Comprehensive Assessment System Criteria & Guidance, the tools in the appendices, and the CAS webpage: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CompAssessment>. Thank you!



Rhode Island's Transition to the Common Core

GET READY!

Rhode Island's Transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
and the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)

Update for April - June 2012

CCSS Implementation Resources Developed

For Central Office and Building Administrators:

RIDE has posted resources to assist LEAs in Study of the Standards (CCSS):

- ***“After Study of the Common Core State Standards” Workshop Supports***

These resources are designed to help educators continue the conversation about the CCSS beyond the “Study of the Standards” workshop. Each tool addressed within the workshop will be supported. These resources are adapted from *A Study of the Common Core State Standards* developed by The Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas at Austin for the Rhode Island Department of Education, Spring 2011.

 - [Design and Organization of the CCSS](#)
 - [Learning Trajectory Protocols](#)
 - [Instructional Alignment Chart Protocols](#)
- **Tool to Aid Review of Capacity to Implement the CCSS**

Planning teams in local education agencies (LEAs) and schools can use this tool to assess their current capacity for CCSS implementation. Implementing the CCSS will require a clear understanding of the people and organizations that play a part in implementation - as well as an assessment of the extent to which they are already undertaking the essential elements of this work.

 - [Diagnostic Tool](#)

For Educators:

RIDE developed and posted several new resources for educators to learn more about the CCSS and aid in the transition:

- ***“After Study of the Common Core State Standards” Workshop Supports***

These resources have been designed to help educators continue the conversation about the CCSS beyond the “Study of the Standards” workshop. These resources are adapted from *A Study of the Common Core State Standards* developed by The Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas at Austin for the Rhode Island Department of Education, Spring 2011.

 - [Learning Trajectory Protocols](#)
 - [Instructional Alignment Chart Protocols](#)
- **For ELA/Literacy Educators:**

- **Text Complexity Resource:** [Text Analyzer Tools](#)
- **Resources for Diverse Learners:**
 - [Research and Presentations](#)

In the month of June, RIDE offered several professional development opportunities for educators to participate in deepening their understanding of the Common Core State Standards drawing from the Critical Areas of Focus: Mathematical Practices, Text Complexity, Text Dependent Questions, and Writing an Argument.

Study of the Common Core State Standards

The *Study of the Common Core State Standards* project is wrapping up. To date, we have exceeded our goal of reaching 4000 educators. Twelve sessions were held April through June: five in English Language Arts/Literacy and seven in Math. In these three months, the total attendance for the sessions is estimated at over 400 educators.

RIDE now has a web site dedicated to the *Study of the Common Core State Standards*. For more information, please visit: www.ride.ri.gov/Division-EEIE/Curriculum/StudytheStandards.aspx.

Curriculum Development

East Providence, Pawtucket, and the SORICO group are continuing to write Units of Study in ELA and math, respectively. Planning work has also begun for the newest Math and Science cohorts. While no sessions have taken place yet, the districts are organizing and putting together plans for the next year's work.

RIDE now has a web site with information about the projects and the cohorts: www.ride.ri.gov/Division-EEIE/Curriculum/default.aspx.

Tri-State Rubric Project for CCSS

RIDE content and curriculum specialists participated in a three state collaboration to develop rubrics for Mathematics and English Language Arts Common Core State Standards aligned units and lesson plans. The group, consisting of Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New York, was facilitated by Achieve and met over the course of several months. The purpose of the rubrics is to provide educators, administrators, and others with criterion that are aligned to key shifts as reflected in the CCSS. These rubrics are intended to be used in the development and/or evaluation of materials such as units or lessons, with an emphasis on alignment to the CCSS. Resources have been developed to both explain and demonstrate the rubrics. RIDE will post the resources to the CCSS page of the website, which includes a webinar and explanatory PowerPoint.

Common Core Implementation and Educator Engagement Grants

The districts are in the midst of deploying their resources to achieve the goals of the CCSS mini-grant. All work will continue through June 30th, after which reports of all the projects will be made available for review.

Civics GSEs and Common Core State Standards Educator Engagement Grants

In the previous quarter, RIDE announced a grant opportunity for educators to deeply engage with the Civics GSEs and the Common Core State Standards and to creatively think of ways to implement these standards in their classrooms. The review process was competitive, and RIDE was able to award four grants to Central Falls, Narragansett, Scituate, and West Warwick for the development of units, lessons, or common tasks integrating the Civics GSEs and the CCSS. Congratulations to the awardees!

Resources created through these grants will be shared with Rhode Island educators through the RI Social Studies Listserv and NewsBlast newsletter. If you would like to join this free listserv to receive updates about social studies, history, and civics resources, current events, grant opportunities, and professional development, please send an email to RI-SOCST-request@LISTSERV.RI.NET.

PARCC Technology Readiness Tool

The first reporting window for the PARCC Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) from April 2 to June 8 has closed. The State Technology Readiness Team will review the initial submissions and be in communication with PARCC about progress. Approximately half of Rhode Island's local education agencies were able to submit inventories for this initial window. A wiki and other communication tools used during the collection are available on the Rhode Island group's page at Assess4Ed.net, an online community operated by the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) to support technology leaders in this transition.

PARCC Progress Updates

PARCC Issued Guidance for New Instructional Technology Purchases

PARCC and SBAC announced new guidance designed to inform schools and districts as they make annual instructional technology purchases. The guidelines include hardware and operating system specifications covering the vast majority of commercially available computers and tablets. In addition to the guidelines, a new PARCC web page has been created and a FAQ document for the guidelines has also been posted at www.ride.ri.gov/Assessment/PARCC.aspx.

PARCC States Begin Selection Process for Item Review Committees and Educator Leader Cadre

In April, PARCC requested its states to create Item Review Committees (IRCs) to participate in work sessions during the summer and fall this year. Educators selected for the IRCs will review the passages and items for bias, sensitivity, and content prior to the items being piloted in Spring 2013.

PARCC states also began forming their Educator Leader Cadres (ELCs) in May. The ELCs will help each state build and expand the number of educators who understand, support and feel ownership of the successful implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and PARCC assessments.

Looking Ahead to July - September 2012

CCSS Implementation Resources Planned

The CCSS Implementation Resources that are in development reflect feedback from the field on where needs currently exist in implementation processes. If you have a suggestion for a helpful resource or know of a specific need, email: RI.CommonCore@ride.ri.gov.

Coming Soon:

- **PARCC Model Content Framework Resource for Mathematics and ELA/Literacy**
- **Writing an Argument Module**
- **Academic Vocabulary Module**
- **Rubric for Evaluating Units of Study and Lesson Plans Aligned to the CCSS**
- **Additional Information and Guidance on the Technology Transition for PARCC**

Study of the Common Core State Standards

As we look toward the completion of district sessions, there are two sessions scheduled in July, with the possibility of an open session in August. RIDE will solicit feedback from districts to determine if additional open sessions are necessary. RIDE looks forward to supporting districts in the next phase of CCSS study and learning.

Curriculum Writing

The ELA curriculum will be complete by the October 1st, 2012, and the math curriculum will be complete by July 20th. Those and the other model curriculum will all be available through the Rhode Island Instructional Management System. New cohorts of Math and Science writing and leadership teams will start in the early fall.

PARCC Technology Readiness Tool – Second Data Collection Window Begins

The second of six data-collection windows for the PARCC Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) will begin in September. Districts that did not complete their inventory in the spring are recommended to complete it during this window. A wiki and other communication tools used during the collection are available on the Rhode Island group's page at Assess4Ed.net, an online community operated by the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) to support technology leaders in this transition.

PARCC Model Content Frameworks Feedback

In the summer of 2012, PARCC will again solicit feedback on the **Model Content Frameworks**, and a refined version will be issued that incorporates feedback as needed. In this way, the Model Content Frameworks can evolve to reflect the experiences of educators and students. For more information or to view the frameworks and to listen to webinar discussions of the frameworks, visit www.parcconline.org/parcc-content-frameworks.