



# Ready, Set, Go! Common Core



The Common Core State Standards show what our students need to know and be able to do.

- The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) were developed by states for states in a unique partnership led by 45 states and the District of Columbia. The Common Core Standards were written by educators and are attainable for Rhode Island students. The Common Core Standards **focus classroom instruction on fewer, clearer, and higher standards**. These standards provide our schools and teachers more freedom to engage students and to help students develop the skills they will need to succeed in college and careers.
- The Common Core Standards provide learning goals that reflect what students need to know and be able to do. The standards **include the basic, foundational skills across subjects** (such as multiplication tables and math facts, problem-solving, key reading and writing skills, literature and nonfiction texts), and they **build grade by grade to more advanced knowledge and skills**. How students meet these standards is up to the educators in our schools. Your community and your child's teachers still determine what happens in the classroom every day.
- By 2015, all Rhode Island students will take **new, computer-based assessments** through which they will demonstrate their reading, writing, and math problem-solving skills. These assessments will consist of several question- and answer-formats, including written responses reflecting the ways students will use their knowledge of reading, writing, and math when they enter college and when they start their careers.
- The Common Core will help teachers and students focus on the **key skills that students will need for success beyond high school**. The assessments aligned with the Common Core will help teachers and families determine what support students need and what pathways they can choose to pursue after they graduate.



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Our adoption of the  
Common Core State Standards  
marks an important investment in  
our students and in their future.

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The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) understands that change or transition can be challenging—the transition to the Common Core is no exception! Keep in mind that this transition to new standards and new assessments is occurring across the country; our new assessments will provide us with good information that we can use to support student achievement.

The new standards are designed to be challenging, but they are within reach. Rhode Island districts, schools, and teachers are committed to helping our students succeed under the new standards, and educators have been working together since 2010 to prepare for the transition. Learn more about the Common Core and voice your support for Rhode Island schools and students:



Transition to the Common Core and new  
PARCC assessments  
([www.ride.ri.gov/Transition-CCSS](http://www.ride.ri.gov/Transition-CCSS))



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Check out the Council of the Great City  
Schools CCSS resources (English and Spanish)  
([www.cgcs.org/domain/36](http://www.cgcs.org/domain/36))

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