Changes to New Hampshire State Standards, Curricula, and Assessments

As a part of national reform of curriculum standards, New Hampshire has begun the change from our own state standards in English Language Arts and mathematics to the National Common Core. This is a comprehensive reform initiative to ensure that all schools prepare students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college and in their careers.

For the goals of this agenda to come to fruition, changes will occur in standards, curricula and assessment. These changes will impact the teaching strategies used, and ultimately impact student learning. As a results, school districts are getting ready to make the shift in all areas. This document will provide an overview of the key changes and when and how they will take place for both English Language Arts and mathematics.

What changes are coming for these content areas?

With the adoption of the New Hampshire Common Core Learning Standards, both instruction and assessments will change. For the 2012-2013 school year, the NH standards and the NECAP assessment will stay in place. At the start of the 2013-2014 school year, it is expected that districts will begin moving to the NH Common Core standards and the NECAP will reflect that change.

New Hampshire is Changing its Standards...

And NH State's Assessment are Changing with Them

When will the ELA and mathematics tests change?

The change in content will begin statewide during the 2013-2014 school year, with the content of the fall NECAP mathematics test changing to better represent the NH Common Core Standards. During the spring of the 2012-2013, selected schools have been asked to pilot the new assessment from Smarter Balanced Consortium using the computer systems that are being recommended. WRHS will take part in this initial pilot. In the spring of 2014, all students in New Hampshire's grades 3-8 and grade 11 will take the pilot assessment. In the spring of 2015, the first Common Core Assessment developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is scheduled to be given. The consortium is state-led and New Hampshire is one of the governing states which have a vote in policy decisions. To learn more about the consortium visit the website: http://www.smarterbalanced.org.

Here are some examples of ELA and mathematics questions from the Smarter Balanced Consortium. The links will go to the first sample. In the right hand corner, there is an arrow which will allow viewing of all the samples for the various grade levels:

ELA Samples: http://sampleitems.smarterbalanced.org/itempreview/sbac/ELA.htm

Math Samples: http://sampleitems.smarterbalanced.org/itempreview/sbac/index.htm

NEW HAMPSHIRE Assessment Transition Plan: ELA and Mathematics

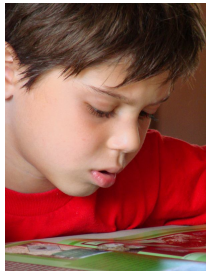
Assessment—Subject Grade	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
ELA				
Grades 3-8	Measures the 2005	NH STATE STANDARDS	Measures the NH Common	Core Standards
Grade 11	Measures the 2005	NH STATE STANDARDS	Measures the NH Common	Core Standards
Mathematics				
Grades 3-8	Measures the 2005	NH STATE STANDARDS	Measures the NH Common	Core Standards
Grade 11	Measures the 2005	NH STATE STANDARDS	Measures the NH Common	Core Standards
ADDITIONAL	DISTRICT Assessments			
Grades 1-10	NWEA Measures 2005 NH STATE STANDARDS	NWEA Measures the NH	Common Core Standards	
Grades K-10	Common District	Assessments Measures the NH	Common Core Standards	

How will the Common Core Standards' Instructional Shifts be reflected in the ELA and Mathematics Assessments?

The Common Core State Standards for ELA/Literacy and Mathematics will change the instructional approach which is expected from teachers. 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. Ultimately, each of the six shifts in both subjects will be evident in the new assessments. Presented on the next pages is a summary:

Six Shifts in ELA ASSESSMENTS



SHIFT 1: ***PK-5 Balancing Informational & Literacy Texts***	***At the elementary level, there is a balance between authentic informational and literary texts.***
SHIFT 2: ***6-12 Knowledge in the Disciplines***	***Questions on the assessment will contain the knowledge base that students will need to respond accurately.***
SHIFT 3: ***Staircase of Complexity***	***The passages presented on the assessment will be based on text complexity and appropriate to the grade level as per the Common Core.***
SHIFT 4: ***Text-Based Answers***	***Students will be required to gather evidence from the text , including paired paragraphs to answer.***
SHIFT 5: ***Writing from Sources***	***Written responses will require students to paraphrase what is presented in the texts.***
SHIFT 6: ***Academic Vocabulary***	***Academic vocabulary will be tested indirectly through the general comprehension of the text.***

Six Shifts in MATH ASSESSMENTS

SHIFT 1: ***Focus***	***Priority standards will be the focus of the assessments.***
SHIFT 2: ***Coherence***	***Assessments will focus on the progression of content and concepts as depicted across the grade levels.***
SHIFT 3: ***Fluency***	***Fluency in facts and in use of all operations is an expectation.***
SHIFT 4: ***Deep Understanding***	***Each standard will be addressed from multiple perspectives.***
SHIFT 5: ***Application***	***Students will be expected to apply their skills to real world problems.***
SHIFT 6: ***Dual Intensity***	***Students will be expected to know when to apply which mathematical concepts when solving a problem.***