



What do they mean for me and my child?



# PA CORE STANDARDS




# Meet the Presenter



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- I'm a mom too!
  - Brian – grade 7
  - Lucas – grade 4



# Session Objectives

- What are Common Core State Standards?
  - Why did Pennsylvania create PA Core Standards?
  - What changes do/will I see in instruction and homework?
  - What does it take to be successful on the assessments?
  - What can a parent do to help build success at home and in the classroom?
  - What resources are available to learn more about PA Core Standards?
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# Why Common Core State Standards?

- Today's students are preparing to enter a world in which colleges and businesses are demanding more than ever before.
- The standards were drafted by experts and teachers from across the country and are designed to ensure students are prepared for today's entry-level careers, freshman-level college courses, and workforce training programs.

<http://www.corestandards.org/>

# “Should not be controversial”

- “The standards are a staircase, and each step equips you to do more complex tasks...their purpose is to create great learners, not to transmit facts. As long as we all want our students to be able to read complex text and solve difficult equations, the Common Core State Standards should not be controversial.”
  - Bill Gates, co-chair Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, July 11, 2012

# Parent Support Videos

- New York began implementing Common Core Standards before PA and has many valuable resources.

[What are parents saying?](#)

# Why PA Core Standards?

- PA educators convened to create PA Core Standards (PCS), essentially a hybrid between the national CCSS and the state's own academic standards.
  - mirror the academic rigor of the CCSS
  - attainable for students
  - realistic for teachers and districts
  - reflect the organization and design of PA Academic Standards

# What are the PA Core Standards?

- The PCS are currently in the following content areas and grades:
  - ELA (English Language Arts) PK-5 and 6-12
  - Mathematics PK-12
  - Reading for Science & Technical Subjects 6-12
  - Writing for Science & Technical Subjects 6-12
  - Reading for History & Social Studies 6-12
  - Writing for History & Social Studies 6-12



# Why have PA Core Standards?

- Life requires use of more than one skill at a time.
- English class is not the only place you need to read and write.
- Basic math is not enough.
- Students need to be ready for what comes next – make informed choices.
- Learning is a lifelong skill.



# What do the PCS mean for parents?

- Describe exactly what your child should learn by the end of each grade.
- Establish clear expectations – allows for teacher and parent shared goals.
- Shift intent from HS completion to college and career readiness.
- Require content taught in much greater depth and often different from how we learned.

# Do you already see these changes?

## ■ ELA/Literacy

- Assignments based on real-life events
- Use of fact-based books related to other content areas
- Identify key parts of text
- Use examples from the book to support ,argue and analyze
- Stretch vocabulary

## ■ Math


- Assignments based on real-world situations
- Show all work
- Explain how they got an answer
- Unstructured problems to solve
- More than one right answer

# How will the PCS be assessed?

- Students in grades 3-8 will take the **PSSA – Math and ELA** (includes reading and writing).
  - Students in grades PK-2 do not take the PSSA but teachers are working on skills to prepare for future assessments.
- Students in grades 9 -12 will take the **Keystone Exams** after completing a course in **Algebra I, Literature and Biology**.



# What is academic rigor?

- Being challenged but supported
  - Thinking independently beyond the obvious
  - Making connections among subjects
  - Exploring and discovering new thinking and ideas
  - Providing guidance not answers
  - Using positive language when confronted with a challenge
  - Having high expectations
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Teachers need your help!



[www.stjam.es](http://www.stjam.es)




# What can parents do NOW to support success?

- Learn about PCS and the state/district implementation plan.
  - Be positive and share your knowledge with other parents.
  - Ask your child to talk in detail about what they are learning.
  - Read a variety of materials to and with your child.
  - Provide opportunities to learn new things at home and in the community.
  - Praise hard work rather than perfection.
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# What can parents do NOW to support success?

- Support your child when faced with challenging work – reward them for sticking with a tough problem.
  - Encourage writing at home for real purposes – do it together using evidence and details.
  - Push your child to know basic facts.
  - Provide structured/quiet time to work on challenging tasks at home.
  - Use math in everyday life – bank, store, etc.
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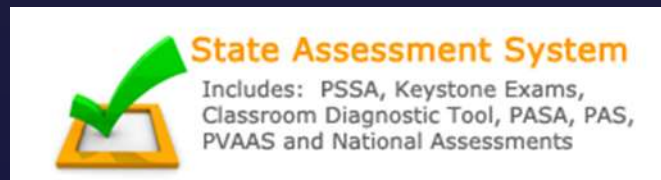


Let's explore some resources!



# State Assessment System

- Resources for educators and parents to be informed and prepare for state assessments.
  - Check out the samplers!



# Standards Aligned System

- A comprehensive, researched-based resource to improve student achievement. SAS identifies six elements that impact student achievement – one being standards.
- [www.pdesas.org](http://www.pdesas.org)
- Standards
  - PA Core Standards
  - Fact Sheets for stakeholders
  - Emphasis Guides by grade level



# Review of Eligible Content



- Eligible Content statements define what we want our students to be able to know and do and provide the most specific description of the skills and concepts assessed on the PSSA and Keystone Exams.
- The Department is seeking specific feedback from YOU now through January 15, 2015.



# National PTA Resources

- The *Parents' Guides to Student Success* were developed by teachers, parents and education experts in response to the Common Core State Standards that more than 45 states have adopted.
- Created for grades K-8, high school English language arts/literacy and mathematics the guides provide clear, consistent expectations for what students should be learning at each grade in order to be prepared for college and career.

# National PTA Parent Guides

- Educate parents about the CCSS standards and help to prepare for conversations with teachers (Consistent with PCS)
- Currently available: Complete booklet K-8 & HS, 2 or 4 page guides in English and Spanish, color or B&W
  - [Booklet with all levels](#)
  - [Grade 2](#)
  - [Grade 6](#)

# A Student's Perspective

- Grade 1 ELA Text-Based Answers Nonfiction



[www.engageny.org](http://www.engageny.org)

# A Student's Perspective

- Grade 2 Math Counting with Bundles



[www.engageny.org](http://www.engageny.org)



# A Student's Perspective

- Let's hear a 4<sup>th</sup> grader talk about converting metric units...



[www.engageny.org](http://www.engageny.org)

# A Student's Perspective


- Now listen to a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student talk about looking deeper into text...



[www.engageny.org](http://www.engageny.org)




# Key takeaways

- This is not a federal mandate or curriculum.
  - PA Core Standards don't take away district control.
  - We will experience some struggle just like our kids... and that's a good thing because the outcome is necessary for our future!
  - We are in this together and should support each other as well as our kids!
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# District Talk Time

- Take some time to talk with the Title I administrator and/or teachers at your location about what you just heard.
    - ▣ Is there anything unique that your district is doing to support students and parents with PCS?
    - ▣ Does the school have a certain person you should talk to about concerns?
    - ▣ Are there special programs or events you can attend?
    - ▣ Are there instructional supports available on the school website or teacher webpage?
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# Evaluations

- Thank you very much for sharing your time with me to learn more about PCS!
- Please complete the evaluation and leave it with the Title I administrator or teacher hosting the event.
- Hang in there! We are the best models for our children and need to show them how to [persevere](#) through this time in education!



# Websites Mentioned:

- [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)
  - [www.engageny.org](http://www.engageny.org)
  - [www.pde.state.pa.us](http://www.pde.state.pa.us)
  - [www.pdesas.org](http://www.pdesas.org)
  - <http://www.paacademicreview.org/>
  - [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)
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