

**Frequently Asked Questions
Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)**

Could you please tell me if the presentation from January 30th will be live streamed and recorded for later viewing? And if so, how long before it's posted for access?

Here is the link to the presentation:

<http://sau41.org/school-boards/live-stream/live-stream-archive/168-general-meetings>

Will the teachers and/or principals be evaluated based on the Smarter Balanced Assessment results?

There are no plans to evaluate teachers and/or principals on the Smarter Balanced Assessment.

Do the majority of SAU41 parents agree with common core?

We do not have any data on what percentage of parents agree or disagree with CCSS. We have answered many questions and addressed concerns when they are brought to our attention. Parents are encouraged to contact their children's administrator if they have further questions or concerns.

How have you assessed how parents feel about this curriculum as opposed to other tested and successful curriculums that could be adopted?

CCSS is a state initiative and Smarter Balanced Assessment is the assessment based on the standards in CCSS. School districts typically are aligned with the state as we have done with CCSS and SBA. There has been an informational presentation (see link above) and there are other community forums that will be offered.

Were the school board, teachers, and parents brought into a discussion prior to the adoption of Common Core State Standards?

SAU41 has aligned with the state initiative (CCSS), just as we did when the GLEs (Grade Level Expectations) and GSEs (Grade Span Expectations) were adopted.

What is the cost state-wide to implement CCSS and how will it be funded?

The cost the SBA is about the same as the current NECAP assessment. Funding is through the state and the district and that will not change with SBA.

PTA Website: [http://www.pta.org/advocacy/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3683#How much will this cost my state and school district?](http://www.pta.org/advocacy/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3683#How%20much%20will%20this%20cost%20my%20state%20and%20school%20district?)

When will the PSAT and SAT be aligned with CCSS?

Beginning in the fall of 2015 for PSAT and in 2016 for the SAT, along with other College Board assessments, will be aligned with CCSS. Below are links for further information.

<http://research.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/publications/2012/8/researchreport-2010-5-common-core-state-standards-alignment-readistep-psat-sat.pdf>

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2013/12/03/college-board-pushes-back-revised-sat-one-year>

Who will benefit from the implementation of CCSS?

CCSS will ensure that all students who are taught with CCSS will have the same core of an academic experience. These standards ensure that students are college and/or career ready when they leave high school. When students move from one CCSS district to another they will be able to stay on track with their education.

Are teachers specifically instructed what to teach, how to teach and when to teach each standard?

CCSS are standards, not curriculum. Teachers use the standards to guide how they teach, what they teach and when they teach the standards just as they did with our previous standards.

Where can I find some examples of the math and English assessments?

You can take a practice test at: <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/>

Does the implementation of CCSS diminish the parents role in and control of their children's' educations?

The role of the parents is not changed with the implementation of CCSS. The standards can be found at: www.corestandards.org. There are many websites for parents to access with information on how to support their children and to learn more about CCSS.

For Parents: <http://teacherhelpforparents.com/2013/01/what-is-common-core-common-core-part-1/>

A Parent's Guide to Common Core State Standards: <http://www.education.com/magazine/article/parents-guide-to-common-core-standards/>

Part I - series in September issue of *Parenting NH*: <http://www.parentingnh.com/September-2013/A-new-set-of-educational-expectations-greets-students-teachers-this-fall/>

Part II - series in October issue of *Parenting NH*: <http://www.parentingnh.com/October-2013/The-emphasis-is-on-comprehension-critical-thinking-and-analysis-skills/>

Part III - series in November issue of *Parenting NH* <http://www.parentingnh.com/November-2013/The-Common-Core-controversy/>

What are the main reasons people oppose CCSS and why?

The main concerns seem to be around the security of student data. The state continues to take steps to ensure that all student information remains confidential.

Protecting Student Data: http://www.education.nh.gov/spotlight/ccss/documents/faq_privacy.pdf

Will students be asked any personal questions in any of the CCSS testing?

Only questions that are related to students' education will be asked in SBA. There will be no personal questions asked other than demographic information (name, grade, school, etc.)

Is there a way for parents or districts to opt-out of Smarter Balanced Assessment?

At this time there is no way for a parent of district to opt-out of SBA. Due to the Flexibility Waiver (which releases us from the constraints of No Child Left Behind) all students in NH must be assessed using the same assessment tool.

Were teachers given the opportunity to review and provide feedback on CCSS prior to acceptance by our school board in 2012?

No it was not a decision that was left to teachers, just as it was not their decision to adopt GLEs/GSEs or any other initiative the state has adopted. They have worked with the SAU Leadership team and collaboratively within their schools, districts, and across districts to ensure that the standards are being

utilized to drive curriculum, instruction and assessment. Just as a reminder, CCSS is the base and we build from these standards.

Will NH adopt the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)?

At this time NH has not determined if they will adopt NGSS. NH is under contract with NECAP for this year and next year so it is likely they will make a decision in the near future.

Who/what group has developed NGSS?

Here is the website to gives information on NGSS - <http://www.nextgenscience.org/>

The NH Science Teachers Association is actively involved with the State of NH and you can find more information and give them feedback at: www.nhsta.net

Is NGSS the “Common Core” for Science?

Yes NGSS is the Common Core for Science.

Will the Smarter Balanced Assessment eventually be used as the NGSS assessment replacing NECAP?

That decision has not been made at this time.

Science provides perfect opportunities for collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving, etc. Why it was not included in CCSS?

The initial focus has been on Literacy (which spans all disciplines) and math. Literacy and math are totally embedded into the sciences.

As CCSS only covers math up to Algebra II, how can these standards prepare our students for STEM careers in engineering, mathematics, and science?

Just as the previous standards (GLEs and GSEs) only cover up to Algebra II, students receive the solid foundational math content and skills that allow them to take more advanced math courses to prepare them for all STEM careers.

CCSS only has standards through Algebra II and most colleges want high school students with at least Pre-Calculus (most prefer Calculus) for a STEM major, will CCSS be detrimental to these students?

Once students have the foundation based on CCSS they are well-prepared to take advanced math courses.

How will teachers assess whether or not the common core standards are the same as, less than, or more rigorous than SAU41’s current GLE’s or standards?

The SBA is only one data point of a multiple of data points that educators use to determine if students are successfully mastering the standards. In SAU41 educators review each students progress on a continuous basis and the score of standardized testing (NECAP currently – SBA in the future) is only one piece of data they utilize.

How do we know that the CCSS are superior to the standards and guidelines already in place?

The State of NH did a “crosswalk” to point out where standards were met with the GLEs/GSEs and where those same standards are met in CCSS. Teachers worked collaboratively for years to align curriculum to the new CCSS and reviewed what other standards we currently use to ensure that all students are well-

prepared for the next step in their educational/life journey. It is important to remember that the CCSS are the floor, not the ceiling – they are the bare minimum and that is where we start not end with standards.

ELA Crosswalk - <http://www.education.nh.gov/spotlight/ccss/side-by-side-english.htm>

Math Crosswalk - <http://www.education.nh.gov/spotlight/ccss/side-by-side-math.htm>

If students are going to be assessed using Smarter Balanced Assessment, how will parents and teachers determine whether or not the students are progressing and/or being taught to a higher standard?

As with any new assessment, it will be about three years before we have data that we will be able to analyze. Meanwhile, educators will continue to administer all of the other assessments that they have been administering all along. Teachers have been working collaboratively over the past three and a half years to develop common assessments – both formative (pre-teaching) and summative (post-teaching) to see where students are academically and if they have acquired the standards being taught.

What has been learned from other administrators and central office personnel about their decision to development of their own district standards in lieu of CCSS, i.e. Manchester and Alton?

Although we have not directly communicated with either of the districts mentioned, we have done much research on why they have chosen to use standards other than CCSS. Manchester is using CCSS as the base for their standards – no unlike what we have always done. For Alton, it is more of a political situation that seems to stem from the fear of loss of local control.