

TO: Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators

SUBMITTED BY: Professional Standards Work Group

ITEM FOR ACTION: Common Core Requirements for Approved Programs

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators vote to require approved programs to begin implementing the Common Core State Standards (CC) in their programs.

MOTION:

I, _____, move that the VSBPE require approved programs to begin implementing the Common Core State Standards (CC) in their programs. Specifically:

- all 2013 program completers will need to have a working knowledge of the CC since Vermont classrooms are expected to be fully aligned to the CC for the 2013-2014 school year;
- for 2012 completers, programs should consider how to balance some knowledge of the CC with knowledge of the NECAP expectations since NECAP will most likely be administered for the last time in the fall 2013;
- all 2011 program completers should be made aware of the CC and know that Vermont, like many states, is making this transition.

BACKGROUND:

Approved programs were first alerted about the Common Core Standards in July of 2010. Since that time the Educator Quality division has worked with the Research, Standards and Assessment division to establish a timeline that is aligned with the requirements for Vermont schools. Both teacher preparation programs and the VSBPE have been represented on the Common Core Implementation Committee at the Department. The Vermont Council for Teacher Educators hosted a workshop on the Common Core on April 8th where they were first presented with this timeline.

STAFF AVAILABLE: Mary Beth McNulty, Gail Taylor.

DRAFT LETTER

Dear Educator Preparation Program Faculty and Staff:

I am writing to update you on ROPA requirements related to the adoption of the Common Core State Standards (CC) in Vermont. As you may be aware, the CC and the Smarter Balance Assessment (SBAC) in English Language Arts and Math are expected to be fully implemented by the 2014-2015 academic year. The CC will replace the NECAP Grade Expectations and the SBAC replaces the current NECAP assessment. This means that:

- all 2013 program completers will need to have a working knowledge of the CC since Vermont classrooms are expected to be fully aligned to the CC for the 2013-2014 school year;
- for 2012 completers, programs should consider how to balance some knowledge of the CC with knowledge of the NECAP expectations since NECAP will most likely be administered for the last time in the fall 2013
- all 2011 program completers should be made aware of the CC and know that Vermont, like many states, is making this transition.

ROPA Review Teams will begin to evaluate programs on their assurance that candidates learn how to plan curriculum, instruction and assessment activities and structure positive learning environments aligned with the Common Core State Standards beginning in 2013.

The Common Core State Standards, adopted by 42 states, are a state-led initiative to develop a set of K-12 standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. The Common Core State Standards Initiative has been led by the National Governor's Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), working with Achieve, ACT and the College Board, among others. The Vermont State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards on August 17, 2010.

The Department of Education wishes to support pre-service programs in beginning the work of aligning their education programs with the CC. We understand that it will take time and effort to review coursework, portfolio requirements, and student teaching experiences to assure that candidates are on track during this transition. We are including a number of handouts with this letter that we hope you will use as a resource for working with your candidates and colleagues; you may find that field-based faculty are already familiar with this work. You can review additional resources at the Vermont's Common Core Wikki at: <https://sites.google.com/site/commoncoreinvermont/home>.

To further support programs, the DOE is pleased to announce that it is hosting a joint workshop with VCTE in the fall. You can look for more information on a date and time for this important meeting on the Vermont Educator Preparation blog at: <http://vtedprep.wordpress.com/>. I hope the above information is helpful and I wish you continued success as you strive to create the finest educator preparation programs you can.

Sincerely,

Janet Steward
VSBPE chair

Enclosure