Teaching & Learning Update

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Amherst-Pelham Regional Public Schools
School Committee Presentation
June 10, 2014
Overview

1. Common Core (K-12)
2. Social Studies (3-12)
3. Math (7-12)
Common Core (K-12)
Learn about the Common Core (video, 3 min)
Statements of Support
Rigorous Standards
Myths vs. Facts
FAQs
National Support

“Zip codes might be great for sorting mail, but they should not determine the quality of a child’s education.”

Alliance for Excellent Education

“All students should graduate from high school ready for college, careers, and citizenship.”

Achieve

“The standards are essential building blocks for a better education system… and they can help prepare all children, regardless of where they live, for success in college, careers and life.”

American Federation of Teachers
Common Core State Standards

1. Agreement among 43 states to have **common** core state standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics (MA, 2010)

2. **College** and **career** readiness

3. **Rigorous** content and applications

4. Designed around **research-based** learning progressions
Rigorous Standards

English Language Arts Standards

- **Key Ideas** and **Details**
- **Craft** and **Structure**
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
- Range of Reading and Level of Text **Complexity**
- Text Types and **Purposes**
- **Production** and Distribution of Writing
- **Research** to Build and Present Knowledge
- **Range** of Writing

Ex: Write **arguments** to support claims in the **analysis** using valid **reasoning** and sufficient **evidence**.

Math Practice Standards

- **Make sense** of problems and persevere in solving them.
- **Reason** abstractly and quantitatively.
- **Construct** viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- **Model** with mathematics
- **Use** appropriate tools strategically.
- **Attend** to precision.
- **Look** for and make use of structure.
- **Look** for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.
Common Core State Standards

Building Codes
Common Core State Standards

Standards are NOT curriculum.

Standards are NOT assessments (e.g., PARCC, MCAS).

Standards are tools for designing high quality curriculum and assessments. (Building Codes)

Common standards make it possible for educators, school districts, universities, colleges, professional organizations and stakeholders in the public and private sector to collaborate and share ideas in education in ways never before possible.

Goal: Creativity, Innovation, Quality, and Partnerships
Critiques

• Role of **private industry** (test development, prioritization of knowledge, measurement bias)

• **Measuring** students more often does not necessarily lead to growth.

• Setting high bars for **all students** without providing the necessary supports can lead to **greater disparities** in achievement.

In ARPS, we use standards to inform the design of courses and assessments to ensure **equity** and promote **excellence** in teaching.
Social Studies (3-12)
Social Studies Curriculum Materials (3-7) January 2014

- Standards-based curriculum materials
  - Scope and sequence
  - Differentiation
  - Assessments
- Grade 3: Our Story Massachusetts
- Grade 4: *Regions of Our Country* (under review)
- Grade 5: America’s Past
- Grade 6: *World Civilization/Geography* (under review)
- Grade 7: *World Civilizations/Geography* (under review)

TCI History Alive Curriculum Materials
http://www.teachtci.com/
Social Studies Curriculum Materials (3-7)  
June 2014

- Grade 4: US Regions, Maps, Immigration Unit
  **Regions of Our Country Teacher Resources Only (TCI)**
  Nystrom Jr. Atlas, Globes
  Richard Cairn, Collaborative
  Professional Development for Grade 4 Teachers (Fall 2014)

- Grade 5: *America’s Past (TCI)*

- Grade 6: *The Ancient World (TCI)*

- Grade 7: *Geography Alive (TCI)*

- Grade 8: A Young People’s History of the US (Howard Zinn)
  **United States Through Industrialism (TCI, used since 2010)**

TCI History Alive Curriculum Materials  
http://www.teachtci.com/
Grades 6 & 7 Review Process

- Middle School Curriculum Leader
- All 6th and 7th social studies teachers (12 hours)
- Hourly curriculum work
- Webinars
- Sales Representative Demo
- Texts reviewed:
  - History of the World: Early Ages (McGraw Hill)
  - Discovering World Geography (McGraw Hill)
  - My World History (Pearson)
  - My World Geography (Pearson)
  - Geography Alive! (TCI)
  - The Ancient World (TCI)

- **Determining factors for materials selection**: alignment with MA standards, multiple perspectives, hands-on learning, differentiation, and technology
High School Social Studies Courses Recommendation

Preserve the **HS Electives Program** in 12th grade

**World History I** (9th Grade)
- Medieval and Early Modern World History
- 500 – 1800s

**World History II** (11th Grade)
- Emphasis on 19th and 20th Centuries
- Global Perspective
- Focus on Practical Application of History
Rationale

Aligns with MA History and Social Science Frameworks

Currently
• No requirement to study modern world history (1400 – present)
• In 2013-2014, 16% students in 11th and 12th grade took a modern world history elective.

ARPS Commitment to inclusion of diverse voices in the social studies curriculum

Modern World History will bring the rich content in African, Asian, European, and Latin American electives to all students.
Rationale
Declining Enrollment and Staffing
  • Increasingly difficult to manage the number of electives we offer

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## Number of times that a teacher taught 3 or more different social studies courses in a term (FY13, FY14)

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<td>Camera, Samantha E</td>
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<td>0 (80%)</td>
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<td>Fricke, Thomas *</td>
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Multicultural/Anti Bias Study Group

• Co-facilitated by school administrator and community member
• Comprised of ARPS teachers, staff, students, parents, community members, historians, scholars)
• Open meetings with one agenda focus topic (e.g., 7th grade Global Studies course, 3rd grade Massachusetts History)
• Offers a structure for bringing multiple perspectives and resources into the development of the K-12 curriculum

Purpose (DRAFT)
Engage in examining curriculum taught in specific courses or grade levels with an eye towards expanding different perspectives, identifying what is missing, as well as identifying high quality materials to strengthen the curriculum.

Sample Resources
Teaching Tolerance Anti Bias Framework
ARPS Multicultural Standards
ARPS Social Justice Commitment
MA Social Studies Curriculum Frameworks
Educational and Professional Organizations Committed to Equity and Social Justice
Course Development

- Textbook Selection (World History I, Jan 2015)
- Course Design: Essential Questions, Standards, Performance Tasks, Universal Design Learning Principles
- World History I: 9th Grade Course (Fall 2016)
- World History II: 11th Grade Course (Fall 2017)

Community Resources

- Partner with local historians and scholars
  - Professor Joye Bowman – Chair of UMASS History Department
  - Professor Anne Broadbridge – Associate Chair of UMASS History Department
- Review textbooks and curriculum maps
- Suggest resources
Math (7-12)
Linking MS and HS Math Courses to Support Advanced HS Math Course Participation

7th Grade
Math 7 Flex
Math 7

8th Grade
Algebra 8+
Algebra 8
Elective

ARHS
Honors
College Prep
8th Grade Math

Algebra 8+
  • Algebra 1 (purple book)

Algebra 8
  • Algebra 1 (purple book)
  • Grade 8 (blue book)

Algebra 8+ Elective
  • Algebra 1 (purple book)
Middle School Math Portfolio Option

- 15 students participating
- Program continues next year in 8th grade
- Students who complete the portfolio will have completed two high school courses in middle school.
- Students who complete the portfolio are on sequence to take Calculus in 11th grade.
- Portfolio option available in high school for students electing to take Calculus in 11th grade.
Math Textbook Evaluation (9-11)

- **Curriculum Review**
  - Math Dept Head
  - Math/Science Coordinator
  - High School Math Teachers (entire Dept)
  - Evaluation Criteria
  - 18 Hours

- **Reviewed Materials**
  - Center for Mathematical Education Project (Traditional)
  - College Preparatory Math (Traditional and Integrated)
  - Core Plus Mathematics Project (Integrated)
  - Carnegie Learning (Traditional and Integrated)

- **Materials to Be Reviewed**
  - Interactive Mathematics Program (Integrated)
  - Discovering Series (Traditional)
  - Carnegie Learning (Traditional and Integrated)

- **Classroom Trials**
Textbook Evaluation Criteria

- Massachusetts Curriculum Standards Alignment
- Standards for Mathematical Practice
- Strong content connections through application
- Differentiation
  - Suggested strategies
  - Variety of materials
  - Accessibility
Professional Development

Math Professional Learning Community K-16
• Western Massachusetts Mathematics Partnership and Five College Partners
• Focus: To gain a deeper understanding of the development of algebraic thinking throughout the grades
• 11 ARPS staff members (K-12)

Summer
• Online Stanford University Course (16 hours, 15 teachers)
• AEF Grant: Mt. Holyoke: Patterns, Functions, and Change (weeklong institute, 10 teachers)
• WMMP Summer Institute
Next Steps

- Review World History I texts (Jan 2015)
- Review Grades 9-11 math texts (Jan 2015)
- Develop Course Outlines using the Understanding by Design (UbD) Framework
  - Algebra 8+
  - Algebra 8
  - Algebra 8+ elective
- Update Math 7 & Math 7 Flex assessments and pacing
- Update Grade 6 assessments and pacing
Thank You