



## Transitioning to Common Core Standards



### Overview

States have recently developed plans to transition to Common Core Standards. The question now becomes how to make these standards a reality in the classroom quickly, efficiently, and effectively. The most common approach is that most states have focused on an evolving process that includes implementation roll-out. This requires extensive capacity-building professional development for teachers and administrators. Vantage Learning's Professional Services recommends an approach that focuses on developing and providing a comprehensive professional development plan. The plan will provide a framework for defining and implementing quality standards-based instruction, tools for planning exemplary units, and strategies for raising student achievement.

Vantage Learning provides targeted, aligned, and differentiated professional development to help staff collaborate, communicate, and reflect. The result is improvement in their effectiveness, and meaningful, clear, and timely feedback identifies opportunities for deliberate and frequent practice.



### What Vantage Learning Will Do:

The Vantage Professional Development Team will stress the following:

1. A common language for implementing Common Core Standards in the classroom.
2. "Procedural skill and conceptual understanding with an aim to develop students' skills more deeply in math and ELA." (ASCD Infobrief -11/22)
3. Help teachers and administrators understand that Common Core Standards are not a curriculum; they are a clear set of shared goals and expectations for what knowledge and skills will help students succeed.
4. Teachers and principals will decide how standards are to be met; they will continue to devise appropriate lesson plans based upon the interim assessments.
5. Applying best practices for administering the assessments.
6. Focus on tangible improvements in teaching and learning.
7. The professional development process will work to integrate an understanding of Common Core Standards and their implications for curriculum instruction and assessment.
8. Develop a "real-time" understanding of creating and using performance-based assessments linked to Common Core Standards.
9. We will work collaboratively to create resources that are aligned to the standards.
10. Foster ongoing communication with all stakeholders in order to coordinate assessment implementation.

### Dynamic Professional Development Plan:

The Vantage Professional Development Team will focus on the following four areas.

#### 1. Professional Development Workshops

Topics to Include:

- a. Develop an understanding of Common Core Standards
- b. Implications for curriculum, instruction, and assessment
- c. Developing a curriculum and assessment plan
- d. Implications of curriculum mapping
- e. Incorporate and do hands-on work with participants that shows how technology can be leveraged to track and upgrade curriculum instruction and assessment
- f. Opportunities to practice the skills learned
- g. Open discussions relative to how these standards will ultimately help each of their students

# Transitioning to Common Core Standards

## 2. Leadership Training with Vantage Implementation Specialists

### The Implementation Specialist will:

- Deliver leadership and orientation training to administrators and key leadership training of the Common Core Standards.
- Provide a process for school leaders to set goals for raising student achievement for all students as well as specific populations with achievement gaps.
- Help to establish the core school/district Common Core Standards goals and objectives.
- Meet with district/school curriculum leadership team to ensure successful Core Common Standards integration.
- Review the specifics of the training process and discuss long-term training, coaching, and mentoring options and create a training plan for new teachers to the district/school.

## 3. Curriculum Development with the Vantage Professional Development Team

### The Vantage Professional Development Team will:

- Review curriculum maps currently used by teachers and incorporate the new Common Core Standards in the various content areas.
- Work with educators to collaboratively create units of study and accompanying lesson plans that align to the new Common Core Standards.
- Provide constant communication and collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Education.
- Provide assistance to teachers, district staff, and any stakeholder working on the project.

## 4. Building Capacity: The Vantage Train the Trainer Series: Vantage Professional

Vantage will continue existing work in developing and certifying a network of district-wide trainers by offering the Train The Trainer Series. The 8-day Train the Trainer Certification Institute (TTT) provides a carefully selected group of potential trainers in a district or school and intensive instruction in the new Common Core Standards. After the institute, the new Common Core Trainers will possess a deep knowledge of curriculum planning using Common Core Standards. Once district trainers are certified, they become the cadre of experts to support Common Core Standards implementation for years to come. Under the direction of the Vantage Professional Development team, district trainers create a professional development model and strategies to turn-key the delivery of any and all workshop sessions provided by Vantage Learning.

Activity/Milestone	Location	Quantity
<b>Study of the Standards Training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-Planning Meeting with Key Stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On Site/Virtual</li> </ul>	1 Day
<b>Curriculum Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership Training (Implementation Support)</li> <li>• Curriculum Development and Alignment (Implementation Support)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On Site</li> <li>• On Site</li> </ul>	16 Days if IS Support 16 Days if IS Support
<b>Intermediary Service Providers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intermediary Service Provider Training (Train the Trainer)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On Site/Virtual</li> </ul>	8 Days