

Free Resources for Helping Private Schools succeed with the *Common Core State Standards*

A Guide for New York Yeshiva School Principals and Teachers



By David Rubel, Consultant
SCF and Teach NYS
July, 2014

“As challenging as it must have been to write and finesse the adoption of the Common Core State Standards, that accomplishment is nothing compared to the work of teaching in ways that bring all students to these ambitious expectations. The goal is clear. The pathway is not.”

-Lucy Calkins, Mary Ehrenworth and Christopher Lehman, Pathways to the Common Core: Accelerating Achievement Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

Summary: How are yeshivas affected by the NYSED Common Core Learning Standards? What are the main concerns?

The new Common Core State Standards Initiative represents a very significant restructuring of public school education. It is a nationwide program that has been accepted in 45 states including New York. Private schools here in New York State, or anywhere in the country, have no legal obligation to use the CCSS. However, here in New York State, three of the five required for graduation Regents Exams will now be Common Core based. Since most private high schools in New York administer the Regents Exams and confer a Regents Diploma, the CCSS are a major new chapter for private schools too. The new Common Core based Regents exams in Algebra, English Language Arts and Geometry are considered more challenging than the exams that have been in use. Private schools will have to align and adapt the classroom curriculum to the CCSS to ensure their students continue to receive passing scores on the Regents Exams.

Based on data received from NYSED, around 100 New York City yeshivas have their students take the NYS ELA and Math test in at least 4th and 8th grade and another 40 yeshiva high schools administer the New York State Regents tests. In total, around 60,000 students or 65% of all yeshiva students participate in annual test taking. This group of schools is mainly comprised of yeshivas in Flatbush, Midwood and Queens, but also includes many in Boro Park and a few Williamsburg schools.

Here are the main concerns:

- a. **Implementing Common Core Standards will require a big commitment from schools and teachers:** Across the country, the schools districts are devoting billions of dollars to help their teachers implement the Common Core State Standards. These dollars cover professional development, new curriculum, textbooks and student workbooks. Public school teachers are also expected to devote their own time, outside of school hours, to revamping their curriculum and lesson plans to meet the Common Core Standards. Private schools are under no legal obligation to share the basic policy argument or meet any annual test goals of NCLB or CCLS. High schools that administer the Regents exams and confer a Regents diploma will need to ensure their students continue to get a passing score on the new CCLS based NYS Regents Test in ELA and Math. Should private schools adopt the paradigm of restructuring instruction starting with Pre-K Given that the parochial schools here in New York City do not have the same resources to draw upon as their public school counterparts, what is the minimum plan and maximum plan for private schools? In particular, what can yeshiva schools do with the limited dollars available to them?

- b. **\$12 Million was spent in 2013 by NYSED on creating new Common Core curriculum, lesson plans and student work book materials for all grades K to 12: THESE MATERIALS ARE FREE FOR ALL SCHOOLS INCLUDING PRIVATE SCHOOLS.** How should the yeshivas maximize the free curriculum and content resources already available for use? How should the NCLB professional development dollars available to the yeshivas be used here? How to best utilize what is free and what must be paid for is the main strategy question going forward. While the Math materials will not present any concerns regarding content, some of the yeshivas may object to the sample fiction and nonfiction pieces chosen by the Vendors for grades 9 to 12. Many other states have contracted with vendors to create free Common Core curriculum, unit and lesson plans, and their resources can be used if more content-acceptable materials are needed. There is also a complete online library of Common Core webinars and assorted videos with live examples of classrooms using a Common Core lesson plan.

- c. **NCLB Title I dollars are a very important resource. Only a small number of yeshiva high schools are currently running a Title I program:** One funding resource that is available right now to many yeshiva high schools is the Title I program. For the entering 9th grade class that took the NYS ELA and Math Tests, any student scoring below Level 3 is Title I eligible if they live in a public school Title I zone. Students in 9th grade can take the Stanford Achievement Test or other acceptable standardized tests this spring to determine Title I eligibility. If Title I eligible, students can receive free small group supplemental instruction in English and Math. Once the schools are running a Title I instructional services program, the secular studies teachers can participate in free Common Core based professional development workshops using Title I funds. While 118 yeshivas are now currently running a Title I program, only a handful are high schools. Efforts should be made to encourage these high schools to consider bringing Title I into their schools.

- d. **Common Core Standards were developed to fully include most children receiving special education services:** One of great challenges of Common Core will be with ensuring that special education students get the help they need and are entitled to master the Standards. Approximately 85% of all students with an IEP attending a NYC-DOE elementary, middle or High School will be taking the same Common Core based NYS ELA and Math tests and the new Common Core Regents ELA and Math tests. These students will be expected to achieve a Level 3 on the NYS ELA and Math test or in the case of high school, to score a 75 on the Regents ELA and 80 on the Math exams. To receive a Regents Diploma, a score of 65 will be required for five exams. Students with an IEP are entitled to instructional extra help with meeting the Common Core Standards. An IEP should now be written with language specific to strategies and annual goals for meeting the Common Core standards. Also, the SETSS P3 teachers need to receive professional development training so that they can offer Common Core specific help in ELA, Math (and Science and Social Studies). At the present, there are few professional development workshops targeted to the DOE contracted P3 providers, free or out of pocket. While there is more urgency in high school, students with and IEP in all grades should be able to receive SETSS services that are aligned with Common Core. Professional Development should also cover Universal Design for Learning (UDL) strategies for the English, Math Science and Social Studies classroom teacher.
- e. **Classroom success with Common Core still begins with a teacher's passion for learning and teaching.** The big questions, why are we reading this text, why is it interesting, are still left to the classroom teacher. Why a work of literature or nonfiction is great and should be carefully and thoroughly studied by the student (and enjoyed) is not addressed in the Standards. An unspoken assumption is that students already appreciate the importance of the text. Consequently, the classroom teacher has the same big challenge that teachers have always had- how to ignite sparks of curiosity in their students so that they will really *want* to master the text (not just because they are required to for a grade or score on an assessment). A big misnomer about Common Core is that it limits a teacher's creativity in the classroom. Actually, the more creative and curious the teacher is, the more likely the students will master the CCLS.

1. Where can I download a copy of the official Common Core Standards for English and Math?

The **New York State Education Department (NYSED)** has adopted the Common Core State Standards for New York State. NYSED version is called the **Common Core Learning Standards**.

- The NYS ELA standards can be downloaded at:
<http://www.engageny.org/sites/default/files/resource/attachments/nysp12cclsela.pdf>
- The NYS Math standards can be downloaded at:
<http://www.engageny.org/sites/default/files/resource/attachments/nysp12cclsmath.pdf>

NYSED sets overall policy for all school districts and oversees and administers the annual ELA and Math testing. NYSED has its own CCLS professional development called Network Teams. Through its EngageNY website, NYSED provides various resources for helping school districts revamp for CCLS. www.engageny.org It includes webinars, free curriculum, sample text study guides, etc.

2. What are CCLS instructional shifts? How can classroom curriculum be aligned to CCLS?

The implementation of Common Core Standards is based on what is known as “instructional shifts”. These shifts refer to the instructional change that teachers will need to apply to their curriculum, subject units, and lesson plans for students to achieve the CCLS. The Standards are highly detailed expectations, and both ELA and Math have separate official standards for grades Pre-K to 12th that are around 100 pages in length. If there were two words that best described the Standards they would be **thorough** and **rigorous**. A fundamental point to remember is that US Common Core State Standards and NYS Common Core Learning Standards do not have any approved curricula. CCLS leaves it up to the school district and the teacher to develop and implement the curriculum or select a vendor curriculum.

Shifts in ELA/Literacy

Shift 1	Balancing Informational & Literary Text	Students read a true balance of informational and literary texts.
Shift 2	Knowledge in the Disciplines	Students build knowledge about the world (domains/ content areas) through TEXT rather than the teacher or activities
Shift 3	Staircase of Complexity	Students read the central, grade appropriate text around which instruction is centered. Teachers are patient, create more time and space and support in the curriculum for close reading.
Shift 4	Text-based Answers	Students engage in rich and rigorous evidence based conversations about text.
Shift 5	Writing from Sources	Writing emphasizes use of evidence from sources to inform or make an argument.
Shift 6	Academic Vocabulary	Students constantly build the transferable vocabulary they need to access grade level complex texts. This can be done effectively by spiraling like content in increasingly complex texts.

Shifts in Mathematics

Shift 1	Focus	Teachers significantly narrow and deepen the scope of how time and energy is spent in the math classroom. They do so in order to focus deeply on only the concepts that are prioritized in the standards.
Shift 2	Coherence	Principals and teachers carefully connect the learning within and across grades so that students can build new understanding onto foundations built in previous years.
Shift 3	Fluency	Students are expected to have speed and accuracy with simple calculations; teachers structure class time and/or homework time for students to memorize, through repetition, core functions.
Shift 4	Deep Understanding	Students deeply understand and can operate easily within a math concept before moving on. They learn more than the trick to get the answer right. They learn the math.
Shift 5	Application	Students are expected to use math and choose the appropriate concept for application even when they are not prompted to do so.
Shift 6	Dual Intensity	Students are practicing and understanding. There is more than a balance between these two things in the classroom – both are occurring with intensity.

3. **\$12 Million was spent last year by NYSED on creating new Common Core aligned curricula, including unit, modules, daily lesson plans, and student work book materials for all grades from K to 12.**

FREE FOR ALL SCHOOLS INCLUDING PRIVATE SCHOOLS

5-A. NYSED funded Common Core curriculum materials: NYSED has already funded several well regarded education companies to produce new Common Core based curriculum, modules, units and lesson plans, student workbooks for grades K to 12. Each unit also has a midpoint and end assessment to administer to see how well students are learning and mastering the materials. Public *and* Private schools can use these materials for free. The materials can be used fully as the sole classroom curriculum or they can offer a pacing and structure guide for teachers that want to use their own curriculum (or a combination of both). There are no regulations or even recommendations on how a teacher can use the prepared curriculum. The curriculum comes Common Core aligned. The grade by grade curriculum offer numerous entry points for a teacher to adapt their existing curriculum to the Common Core Standards. The chart on Page 7 shows all of the curriculum programs recommended either by NYSED or NYC-DOE.

Vendor Program	Web Page link	Math or ELA	Grades	Cost
ReadyGen	Pearson	ELA	K to 5	
Common Core Code X	Scholastic	ELA	6 to 8	
Core Knowledge	http://www.engageny.org/sites/default/files/resource/attachments/overview_of_the_core_knowledge_language_arts_program.pdf	ELA	K to 2	FREE
Expeditionary Learning	http://www.engageny.org/resource/kindergarten-english-language-arts	ELA	K	FREE
Expeditionary Learning	http://www.engageny.org/resource/grade-1-english-language-arts-listening-and-learning-strand	ELA	1	FREE
Expeditionary Learning	http://www.engageny.org/resource/grade-2-english-language-arts	ELA	2	FREE
Expeditionary Learning	http://www.engageny.org/resource/grade-3-ela-module-1	ELA	3	FREE
Expeditionary Learning	http://www.engageny.org/resource/grade-4-english-language-arts	ELA	4	FREE
Expeditionary Learning	http://www.engageny.org/resource/grade-5-english-language-arts	ELA	5	FREE
Expeditionary Learning	http://www.engageny.org/resource/grade-6-english-language-arts	ELA	6	FREE
Expeditionary Learning	http://www.engageny.org/resource/grade-7-english-language-arts	ELA	7	FREE
Expeditionary Learning	http://www.engageny.org/resource/grade-8-english-language-arts	ELA	8	FREE
Public Consulting Group	http://www.engageny.org/resource/grade-9-english-language-arts	ELA	9	FREE
Public Consulting Group and Odell Education	http://www.engageny.org/resource/grade-10-english-language-arts	ELA	10	FREE
Public Consulting Group and ODELL Education	http://www.engageny.org/resource/grade-11-english-language-arts	ELA	11	FREE
ODELL Education	http://www.engageny.org/resource/grade-12-english-language-arts	ELA	12	FREE
Go Math	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	Math	K to 5	
Connected Math	Pearson	Math	6 to 8	
Common Core, Inc.	http://www.engageny.org/resource/grade-1-mathematics	Math	1	FREE
Common Core, Inc.	http://www.engageny.org/resource/grade-2-mathematics	Math	2	FREE
Common Core, Inc.	http://www.engageny.org/resource/grade-3-mathematics	Math	3	FREE
Common Core, Inc.	https://www.engageny.org/resource/grade-4-mathematics	Math	4	FREE
Common Core, Inc.	http://www.engageny.org/resource/grade-5-mathematics	Math	5	FREE

5-B. New York City Department of Education (NYC-DOE) Common Core Library: the NYC-DOE has produced its own Common Core classroom resources. Most of these resources are free to access through the NYC-DOE Common Core Library. You do not have to be an employee of the DOE to access these resources. There is some overlap with the NYSED www.Engageny.org website. In the Common Core library, there are materials organized by grade:

New York City Department of Education (NYC-DOE) Common Core Library		
Grades	Content	Webpage Link
K to 6	The 2013-14 Citywide Instructional Expectations ask educators to ensure that curricula are aligned to the Common Core standards and that teachers shift their classroom practice. Meeting these higher standards will require regular and ongoing assessment that helps teachers and students address the gap between what students know and are able to do. The resources on these webpages highlight the curricular, professional development, and additional resources in support of this work. These materials were prepared by well-known vendors including Teachers College Reading and Writing Project at Columbia University, Inquiry by Design and the Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning and Equity.	http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/CommonCoreLibrary/CommonCoreClassroom/ELA/elementary_ela.htm
6 to 8		http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/CommonCoreLibrary/CommonCoreClassroom/ELA/middle_ela.htm
9 to 12		http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/CommonCoreLibrary/CommonCoreClassroom/ELA/high_ela.htm
		http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonivres/8822E7D5-CF7A-40B3-BE58-791F6E52E27E/0/NYCD0E68LiteracyTCRWP_Final.pdf

5-C. Privately funded free materials: plans, curricula, lesson plans and student workbooks:

Student Achievement Partners is the “official” CCSS national resource for thousands of school districts across the country. It is important to point out that school district budgets varied widely across the country. The poorer districts do not begin to have the resources to ramp up the same way the better funded districts can. Free materials including professional development webinars, written guides, sample curriculum, were developed with these districts in mind.

www.achievethecore.org: is the website for Student Achievement Partners. Student Achievement Partners was founded by David Coleman, Susan Pimentel and Jason Zimba, lead writers of the Common Core State Standards. This website is full of free content designed to help educators understand and implement the Common Core State Standards. It includes practical tools designed to help students and teachers see their hard work deliver results. www.achievethecore.org was created in the spirit of collaboration. Source: www.achievethecore.org website.

6. Professional Development Strategies: there are excellent free webinars and live classroom examples on EngageNY, the Teaching Channel and other websites

Common Core requires a major shift in classroom instruction. How will teachers receive professional guidance in implementing the Common Core standards in the classrooms? NYSED with its <http://www.engageny.org/video-library> and the NYC-DOE have extensive free PD materials covering all aspects of Common Core into the classroom. Another excellent free resource is the **Teaching Channel**. The Teaching Channel has produced a series of Common Core videos for teachers covering all grades, math and English.

https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos?page=1&categories=organizations_national,topics_common-core&load=1

Professional Development Turnkey Kit: This is more general and is intended for all teachers to use. There are 12 separate sessions, free practice tests for all grades 3 to 8, and free curriculum materials. It also has lots of samples of textual analysis for grades 3 to 8 based on CCLS.

<http://www.engageny.org/resource/professional-development-turnkey-kit-ela-3-8-july-2013>.

With extensive and free online professional development webinars and materials, teachers can tackle the learning curve at home as well as by participating in workshops and classroom coaching. The challenge here is how to best use a mix of online and in person professional development.

7. Cut to the chase, show me a student written essay that meets the Common Core Standards.

For better or worse, mountains of information have already made their way into print regarding the Common Core Standards. One of the easiest and least frustrating ways to understand the changes brought by CCLS is to look at a series of student short opinion essay writing samples. A main goal of the Standards is for students to enter college with the requisite skills for writing essays and research papers. The mastering of Common Core reading standards (CCLS) must also show up in writing. The Teachers College Reading and Writing Project has a free 75 page guide: **GRADE 8 LITERACY: TCRWP NONFICTION**

READING AND ARGUMENT WRITING. http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/8822E7D5-CF7A-40B3-BE58-791F6E52E27E/0/NYCDOEG8LiteracyTCRWP_Final.pdf

What is most useful about this guide is that there are examples of four levels of student writing ranging from above proficient, proficient, intermediate and novice. Each writing sample is fully critiqued for its strengths and weaknesses. Teachers now can see how the CCLS now influence and shape a writing assignment.

8. NYC-DOE funded UPK programs must now be Common Core Standards based:

Effective with the new December 2013 UPK RFP, all providers must adapt their programs to be based on the New York State Education Department Common Core Learning Standards for Pre-K students. The most important resource to use is the **NYSED Pre-Kindergarten Foundation For Common Core.**

http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/common_core_standards/pdfdocs/nyslsprek.pdf

The NYC-DOE has also been working on a new Common Core based curriculum for its UPK programs.

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/EarlyChildhood/EducatorResources/CommonCore.htm>

Since the new 2014 NYC-DOE Full Day UPK initiative is still undergoing program modifications, the year end assessment expectation for children for full day programs has not been fully established as of this writing. We are still waiting to see the written guidance for the NYC-DOE UPK program monitors as it relates to Common Core.

9. What existing yeshiva school strengths can be built upon to make the transition to CCLS easier?

Common Core is about ensuring all students develop strong critical thinking skills. What have schools been doing up now with this goal. Here is a brief description of Common Core goals.

“Students who meet the Standards readily undertake the close, attentive reading that is at the heart of understanding and enjoying complex works of literature. They habitually perform the critical reading necessary to pick carefully through the staggering amount of information available today in print and digitally. They actively seek the wide, deep, and thoughtful engagement with high-quality literary and informational texts that builds knowledge, enlarges experience, and broadens worldviews. They

reflexively demonstrate the cogent reasoning and use of evidence that is essential to both private deliberation and responsible citizenship in a democratic republic.” Source: NYSED Common Core Standards for Language Arts and Literacy. Introduction Section.

Much of the Common Core Standards are not new to some elementary and secondary schools. Schools with a strong emphasis on a rigorous college preparation have been teaching with the same goals in mind for decades. Which learning content areas of a typical yeshiva education already incorporates some of the key intellectual skills of Common Core? What about the passion for teaching and instilling a passion for learning in children? How can the classroom teacher get students excited about the text, digging down for the meaning, whether the text is fiction or non-fiction? To the extent a teacher has a passion for learning and teaching, there will be a much higher likelihood of success with Common Core. How can the NCLB funded Title II Part A Professional Development be built on existing strengths and practices?

10. What can high schools start doing today to prepare for the new Common Core based ELA and Math Regents Test?

For New York private schools, the high schools have the most at stake with Common Core. The elementary and middle schools participation in the new Common Core based NYS ELA and Math assessments is purely voluntary. While high schools are not required by NYS law to confer a Regents Diploma, most private schools do. Consequently, private high schools share many of the same challenges and concerns as public high schools. They both have to restructure the classroom to ensure that their students are learning on the Common Core cumulative knowledge path. If students enter high school with a weak foundation in Common Core, then an even greater responsibility is placed on the high school. Schools should also give serious consideration to offering Title I instructional services. The good news is that the informational materials needed to transition High School classes to Common Core is already available on the New York State Education Department/Engage websites and free. The old and new Regents Exams are now available online. Teachers can study the new Common Core Algebra, ELA and Geometry Regents exams to see how significant the changes are.

- **Spring 2014 Common Core based Regents Tests for Math and English:** The first official NYSED Regents Common Core English and Algebra 1 Exams were just released this past June 2014. Both exams can be downloaded from these webpages:
 - **Algebra I:** <http://www.nysedregents.org/algebraone/>
 - **English Language Arts:** <http://www.nysedregents.org/hsela/>

- **Geometry (Common Core)**

- [Geometry \(Common Core\) Test Guide](#) 
- [Geometry Standards Clarifications](#) 
- [Regents Examination in Geometry \(Common Core\) Sample Items](#) 
- [NTI Turnkey Kit: The Geometry \(Common Core\) Regents Exam](#) 

- **2014 ELA, Algebra I and Geometry Regents Test Guides links:**

- http://www.engageny.org/sites/default/files/resource/attachments/english_language_arts_common_core_test_guide.pdf
- http://www.engageny.org/sites/default/files/resource/attachments/algebra_i_test_guide.pdf
- http://www.engageny.org/sites/default/files/resource/attachments/geometry_test_guide.pdf

- **High School Common Core Classroom Materials:** These two webpages also have excellent supplemental materials for adapting high school classroom instruction to the Regents Exams.

Common Core Inc: For 9th grade Regents math (algebra), **Common Core Inc.** has posted several thousand pages of curriculum, unit plans, lesson plans and student workbooks covering the full year of classroom instruction. Common Core Inc. is a vendor that has produced these materials under a contract with NYSED.

<http://www.engageny.org/resource/algebra-i-module-1>

A school can download everything: the Teacher and student materials for all five modules that make up Algebra 1 are free to use.

High School Algebra I

- Algebra I Module 1
- Algebra I Module 2
- Algebra I Module 3
- Algebra I Module 4
- Algebra I Module 5

- NYC-DOE free Ongoing 9th grade math assessments:

http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/0D9AA86E-F601-4F26-9598-CF57C4FA7CAB/0/NYCDOEHSAgebraTheCycleShop_Final.pdf

NGA and CCSSO: Mathematics Appendix A: Designing High School Mathematics Courses Based on the Common Core State Standards

http://www.corestandards.org/assets/CCSI_Mathematics_Appendix_A.pdf

- **ELA: Grades 6 to 12 Literacy Materials:** The ODELL Developing Core Proficiencies Curriculum is comprised of a series of four 3-4 week units at each grade level that provide direct instruction on a set of literacy proficiencies at the heart of the Common Core State Standards. Each unit highlights a core literacy proficiency and provides approaches, instructional sequences, handouts, tools and texts for developing independent mastery and creative critical thinking in students. **CURRICULUM UNITS**

Unit 1: Reading Closely for Textual Details

Unit 2: Making Evidence-Based Claims

Unit 3: Researching to Deepen Understanding

Unit 4: Building Evidence-Based Arguments

11. NCLB Title I and Title II Part A funds can be used for Common Core Professional Development Coaching Days in your school.

One Professional activity that all experts and schools agree on is effectiveness of the classroom observation coaching model. While the free half and full day workshops are helpful, teachers need the sustained follow up that comes with using the classroom coaching model. We strongly encourage schools to use their **Title II Part A** funds for coaching. Several Title II Part A vendors employ coaches with expertise in Common Core; these coaches can work directly onsite with your teachers. For help with using Title II Part A funds for Common Core based coaching days, please contact Judy Oppenheim or Sara Seligson at the Jewish Education Project.

We welcome your comments!

-Please email comments to Yosef Kanofsky ykanofsky@teachnys.org or David Rubel drubel@nyc.rr.com

- For information on Common Core for parents, we encourage you to go to: <http://ou-teachnys-educationresources.org/common-core/>

-Common Core is a work in progress. We will continue to update you of new developments.