



SPIN NEWS

The Newsletter for Parents of Children with Special Needs

School Year 2013-14 Special Edition

SPIN is co-sponsored by the Department of Education and the Disability & Communication Access Board. Services include a phone line for information, referral and support, a quarterly newsletter, an annual conference and community workshops. SPIN is guided by an Advisory Committee made up of parents, teachers and people with disabilities.

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When Hawaii's public school students pick up their pencils, laptops and tablets in early August, their learning will be tied to new education standards, the Common Core State Standards or CCSS. These standards were originally developed in 2010 and have been adopted by 45 states, as well as Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands.

CCSS grew out of a partnership between State Superintendents of Education and Governors across the country who were concerned that too many students were not prepared for college or 21st Century careers when they graduated from high school.

Unlike many other educational reform efforts, CCSS were developed with ALL types of learners in mind, including students with disabilities. Special educators were part of the teams that developed and tested the standards.

The CCSS Initiative also issued a guide to states called "Application to Students with Disabilities." In it they stressed that in order for students with disabilities to meet CCSS and show their knowledge

and skills, their instruction must include the following supports and accommodations:

- ★ related services and supports to meet the unique needs of the student and enable access to the general education curriculum;
- ★ an IEP which includes annual goals aligned with grade-level standards; and
- ★ teachers who are prepared and qualified to deliver high-quality, evidence-based, individualized instruction and support services.

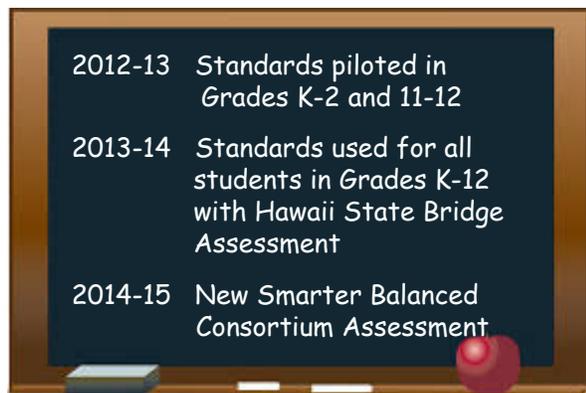
In the next two pages, we'll provide more information and resources to help you, as parents, be more prepared to assist with your child's learning.



What's Inside

Benefits of CCSS	2
Standards-Based IEPs	2
Measuring Progress	2
Helping Your Child	3
CCSS Resources	3
Calendar of Events	4

Standards (CCSS) Timeline



2012-13	Standards piloted in Grades K-2 and 11-12
2013-14	Standards used for all students in Grades K-12 with Hawaii State Bridge Assessment
2014-15	New Smarter Balanced Consortium Assessment

Basic Facts about the CCSS

- ✓ They are for all students in Kindergarten through 12th grade.
- ✓ They cover English Language Arts (reading, writing, speaking and listening, language, media and technology) and Mathematics.
- ✓ They allow students to build from year to year on their prior understanding.
- ✓ They define what students should understand and be able to do at each grade level; they do not tell teachers how to teach.

Benefits of CCSS

Many educators and parents are hopeful that these new standards will prepare our children for more successful life experiences, even though they have not been fully tested over time. Some of the key benefits of CCSS are listed below:

Benefits of Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

- C** - Critical thinking skills & problem solving abilities improve
- C** - Collectively shared tests and materials save money for schools
- S** - Set expectations in 45 states protect students from losing ground when moving
- S** - Success in work and higher education due to knowledge/skills

Seven Steps to a Standards-based IEP

- 1) Look at CCSS for the grade in which the student is enrolled (or would be enrolled based on age).
- 2) Look at data to see where the student is performing in relation to the standards.
- 3) Identify the student's present levels of academic & functional performance.
- 4) Develop measurable annual goals and objectives aligned with the standards.
- 5) Identify specially designed instruction, instructional & testing accommodations, assistive technology devices & services needed to progress toward the standards.
- 6) Determine the most appropriate option for statewide assessments (with or without accommodations, regular assessment or alternate assessment).
- 7) Measure & report on the student's progress throughout the year and adjust supports as needed.

-- Adapted from the National Association of State Directors of Special Education's "A Seven Step Process to Creating Standards-based IEPs"

Measuring Progress

By the new 2014-15 school year, most students with disabilities will be tested along with their non-disabled peers using a new Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) statewide assessment. An Alternate Assessment based on the new standards will be available for the small group of students whose cognitive disability prevents them from taking the SBAC test. For this school year, a "bridge" assessment has been developed, containing items from the old HSA that are relevant to the new standards. Both the SBAC and the bridge assessments are taken on-line and offer a number of accessible features as well as accommodations for students with individualized needs.

Helping Your Child Succeed

With the introduction of CCSS, students will be learning in new ways. In English Language Arts, some of the changes include: 1) reading more non-fiction texts that provide facts and background knowledge (like newsletter articles), 2) reading more challenging materials and referring back to what was read to answer questions, and 3) learning a more complex vocabulary. For Mathematics, some major changes are: 1) learning a more focused set of major math concepts and skills, 2) applying these concepts and skills to solve real world problems.

As we all know, our children do better in school when we are involved in their education. Below are some suggestions on how you can make a positive difference in your child's ability to reach and exceed the new standards.

Educate Yourself. Look through the common core standards to get a feel for what your child will be learning as he moves through school. Check out some of the other websites in the next column to pick up additional information. Consider attending workshops (like those at the SPIN Conference)!

Be an Active IEP Team Member. Help link IEP goals to grade-level standards. Discuss possible accommodations and modifications to coursework. Does your child need access to assistive technology in order to benefit from his or her education? Decide whether your child will need testing accommodations. If so, be sure he or she has time to practice with them prior to testing.

Talk with Your Child's Teachers. Set up a method for communication, so that you can receive important notices and share information. Ask for ideas on what you can do at home. If your child fails to make adequate progress on IEP goals, find out what additional strategies and resources can be provided.

Monitor Homework. The National PTA recommends that parents try and sit down with their child at least once a week for 15-30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This keeps you informed about what your child is working on and gives you a way to know when your child needs help with specific topics.

Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Resources



Hawaii Department of Education
<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/StudentLearning/CommonCoreStateStandards/>

DOE offers an overview of the standards, as well as links to a CCSS toolkit for teachers and parent resources on a website called Achieve the Core. Move over to the assessment page (<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/Testing/StateAssessment>) to learn more about how student progress will be measured.



National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities
<http://nichcy.org/schools-administrators/commoncore>

NICHCY's resources include a number of articles about how the standards apply to students with disabilities, as well as resources for families.



National Parent Teacher Association
<http://www.pta.org/4446.htm>

The National PTA has developed *Parents' Guides to Student Success* and a resource on *Frequently Asked Questions*. The *Guides* are available for each grade and include tips for talking to teachers.



Smarter Balanced Consortium
<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/practice-test/>

The group that is developing the statewide assessment tool for SY 2014-15 has posted a practice test on-line for anyone to use.



Common Core State Standards Initiative
<http://www.corestandards.org>

This site has detailed information about each standard, as well as additional resources.



CHECK THESE DATES...

2013

8/10 1st Annual Assistive Technology Fair

Sponsored by Maui HCIL
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Queen Kaahumanu Center, Maui
To get more info, call Nani at 242-4966,
870-7546 v/text or email to
naniw@pacificil.org.

CARE Hawaii presents:

Co-Occurring Diagnoses

8/23 2201 Waimano Home Road, Oahu

Sensory Integration

9/6 2201 Waimano Home Road, Oahu

Call Bianca at 791-6733 or email to
bianca.mordasini@carehawaii.com.

6th Annual Traveling Mini-Conference 2013

Presented by the Learning Disabilities
Association of Hawaii

8/7 Molokai - TBA

8/20 Lanai - Lanai High & Elementary

9/14 Kauai - King Kaumualii El.

9/21 Oahu - Tokai Internat'l College

For details, contact LDAH at 536-9684.

8/24 Malama Pono Autism Center Open House

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
100 Kahelu Avenue, Suite 112, Mililani
Call 808-450-3080 or to go
www.malamaponoutismcenter.com.

**9/12 Kauai Legislative Forum
"Bullying is Harrassment and Harrassment
is Against the Law"**

Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall
Contact El Doi at 274-3484 or email
kauaidc@yahoo.com.

9/17 Access to Communication Systems

Presented by DCAB
Ward Warehouse, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Email kristine.pagano@doh.hawaii.gov. or
call 447-1397.(video phone)



10/6 Children and Youth Day

State Capitol Grounds
Contact Senator Chun-Oakland
at 586-6130.

10/6 The Buddy Walk

Hosted by Down Syndrome Ohana
Kakaako Waterfront Park
For information, call Maureen at
594-9662 or Ann at 383-2431.

10/11- 2013 Hawaii Early Childhood

12 Conference "Investing in Our Future"

Sponsored by the Hawaii Association for
the Education of Young Children
Hawaii Convention Center
Call 942-4708 or email to haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.
org.



10/26

FOOTSTEPS TO TRANSITION FAIR 2013

Hosted by DOE Windward District
King Intermediate School Cafeteria
Call Hilopa'a at 791-3467 or register
at <http://hilopaa.wufoo.com/forms/windward-footsteps-2013>.

**11/14- Future Horizons Autism Conference
15 with Dr. Tony Atwood**

Waikiki Beach Resort & Spa
Call 1-800-489-0727 or go to
www.fhautism.com

2014

**4/5 28th Annual SPIN
Conference
"HIT A HOME RUN
WITH SPIN"**

Call SPIN for more info.



**5/19- 30th Annual Pacific Rim
20 Conference**

Hawaii Convention Center
Go to www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/ or email to
prinfor@hawaii.edu.