



# Curriculum Update

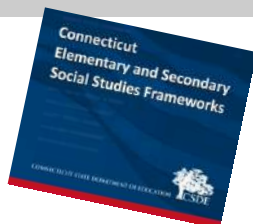
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## New Social Studies Frameworks by the CSDE

These new standards were finally approved by the CSDE in February 2015. Social Studies teachers will review the document at the link below and the district will begin the work of revising our curriculum to align with these standards.

<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/board/ssframeworks.pdf>



## BHS Tablet Initiative

Watch BHS students and staff talk about using the iPad in their class. A BIG thanks to Rob Zapor, Jillian Vigliotti and Mark Jewett for planning, taping and editing this excellent video.

<http://www.brookfield.k12.ct.us/node/ipad/pages/ipad-videos>



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## Curriculum Grants Awarded to the District during 2014-2015

This year, the Brookfield Public Schools have been awarded the following curriculum related grants:

- **Common Core Mini-Grants: The CCSS and Elementary Music—The ARTS are core!** for \$1,500 by Margaret Fitzgerald, Traci Greenberg and Lynn Orzolek

The purpose of this grant is for our elementary music teachers to become more knowledgeable about the CCSS and its intersection with the Fine Arts standards and to develop a set of sequenced experiences within K-4 music classes that support and enhance students' regular classroom learning.

- **Common Core Mini-Grants: Confessions of a Former Bully: a 5th grade literacy and health interdisciplinary program** for \$1,500 by Aggie Burns & Joanne Thompson

The creation of this mini-unit will facilitate learning around the expectations for the CT Core Literacy Standards for 5th grade students. The content objectives will include clearly defining bullying behaviors and developing ways for students to address bullying situations. The unit fosters students reading on several levels as indicated by the anchor reading standards. This mini-lesson is based on the book *Confessions of a Former Bully* by Trudy Ludwig.

- **Common Core Mini-Grants: Carnival Night: 7th Grade Math** for \$760. by Caitlin Cincotti

This night will showcase the implementation of the CT Core Standards in 7th grade math by providing the community an opportunity to interact with students while they explain and demonstrate their mathematical skills and how they apply their activity in real life. This event will take place in May 2015.

- **Three Perkins Innovation Grants** by Sue Troupe

**Mastery of Education** - Documenting ways for students to earn high school credit outside of class

**Student Success Plan (SSP)** - Identifying the key points and accountability insuring that grades 5-12 students will create and keep up to date their Student Success Plans.

**Personal Finance** - Piloting a Personal Finance On-Line Course

- **RESC Coaching Grants** - for professional development coaching days at all four schools focusing on math and/or literacy
- **SPDG Grant** - for academic and behavioral Interventions and Supports for K-8. This is our 3rd year of this four-year grant to implement scientifically research-based core literacy instruction and school-wide positive behavioral supports (PBIS).
- **Assessment Reduction Grant** for \$9,900.00

The purpose of this grant is to study the types and amount of testing in our district and to make adjustments to our testing schedule based on our curriculum needs and K-high school alignment. Our goal is to positively impact teaching and learning via this assessment review.

“Finding Coherence: Focus, Measure and Connect.”

/J. Costa

## Assessment Reduction Grant: Assessment inventory

Each school is currently completing an inventory of their assessments, which will include the following information:

- Learning Goal- Content, Content Skills (Procedural Discrete Skills) Meta Skills (Contextual-Applied Understandings)
- Grade level and/or Dept.
- Category Type, e.g. formative, summative, benchmark, screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring
- Type of Assessment: formal (Standardized, CFA, performance-based assessment, test) or informal (exit slip, quick write, concept map)
- Alignment (to national norms, CT Core Standards, Curriculum Framework, local curriculum, textbook)
- Purpose: (Diagnosis, measure growth towards standards, inform instruction, measure achievement status for grading, measure validity of grade level curriculum, public accountability, programmatic decisions)

- Time Frame (when, frequency, length)
- Used by (individuals, colleagues, teams, grade-level, school)
- Perceived Value (unknown, low, medium, high)



## Assessment Reduction Grant: Vertical Alignment

In this grant there is also substitute money for a teacher representative from some grades to meet with next grade teachers within each school and across schools to focus on the vertical alignment between schools. K-5 will work on literacy and math alignment and 7/8-9 will focus on literacy, math, science, social studies

and world language. Working with curriculum leaders and administrators, these teams will look for the following:

- Similarities in assessments
- Assessment gaps
- Assessment consistencies and inconsistencies

- Priority skills in terms of focus areas for the assessments
- Principals will identify staff for these teams and schedule the meetings by the end of April.

This grant ends June 2015.



## Assessment Reduction Grant: Coherence of Assessments

This spring Jonathan Costa from Education Connection will work with the district’s Administrative Council to foster tighter coherence in the district between our goals for learning and what our assessments measure.

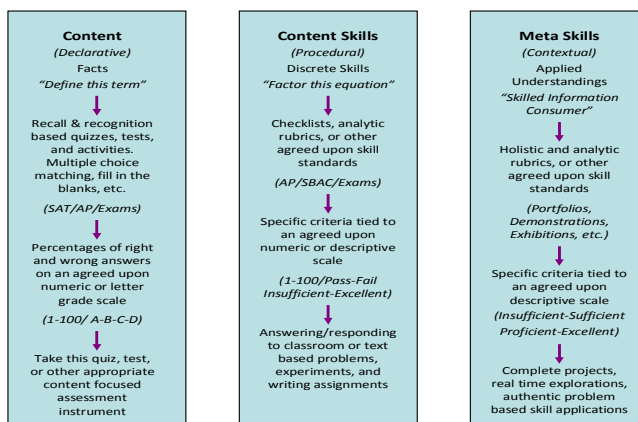
### Align Assessments With Goals for Learning

Type of Knowledge Desired

Appropriate Assessment Instruments

Appropriate Assessment Standards/Scales

Appropriate Assessment Tasks



Overlap between columns can and does occur.