



Curricula and instructional materials are crucial tools that help teachers teach and ensure all students have access to an equitable education. As the world changes, it's also critical that curricula and instructional materials evolve to meet the needs of today's classrooms.

This week's newsletter highlights the different ways states are helping schools and educators use new and innovative curricula to ensure their students are receiving a well-rounded, high-quality and relevant education.

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State Spotlights



Louisiana Superintendent John White and his team's innovative approach to curriculum has led to improved instruction and is already having a positive impact on student outcomes.

The state's approach honors local control and helps school systems choose high-quality curricula by providing needed information and incentives. The state also publishes reviews of textbooks and curriculum--conducted by a network of Louisiana teacher leaders--and ranks the materials into three tiers to help districts navigate and determine the best curricular options for their students.

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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Virginia joined **New York** as the second state to require mental health education in public schools. Virginia's curriculum originated with a group of high schoolers who presented their proposals for addressing mental health issues in schools to state leaders.

"I was impressed by their thoughtfulness, because a lot of these young people had seen bullying. They had seen depression. They had seen classmates that had died by suicide," said Senator Creigh Deeds, who authored the bill to require the curriculum. "It's part of tearing down the stigma and providing some equality with those that struggle with mental health."

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Massachusetts Department of
**ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY
EDUCATION**

Massachusetts recently became the first state to require civics to be taught alongside social studies and U.S. history.

The curriculum includes student-led civics projects, which could be individual, small group, or class-wide initiatives that help students make logical arguments, support claims, and understand the connection among federal, state, and local policies.

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Through the **Nebraska** Instructional Materials Collaborative, the Nebraska Department of Education provides statewide leadership that informs and supports districts' curriculum and instructional materials decisions.

As part of the CCSSO Instructional Materials and Professional Development Network, Nebraska is leading the nation in increasing districts' capacity to provide teachers with high-quality, standards-aligned instructional materials.

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Must Read

CCSSO and New America recently released *Navigating the New Curriculum Landscape: How States are Using and Sharing Open Education Resources (OER)* to provide an in-depth look at how states are supporting OER implementation, and what lessons can be learned from their progress.

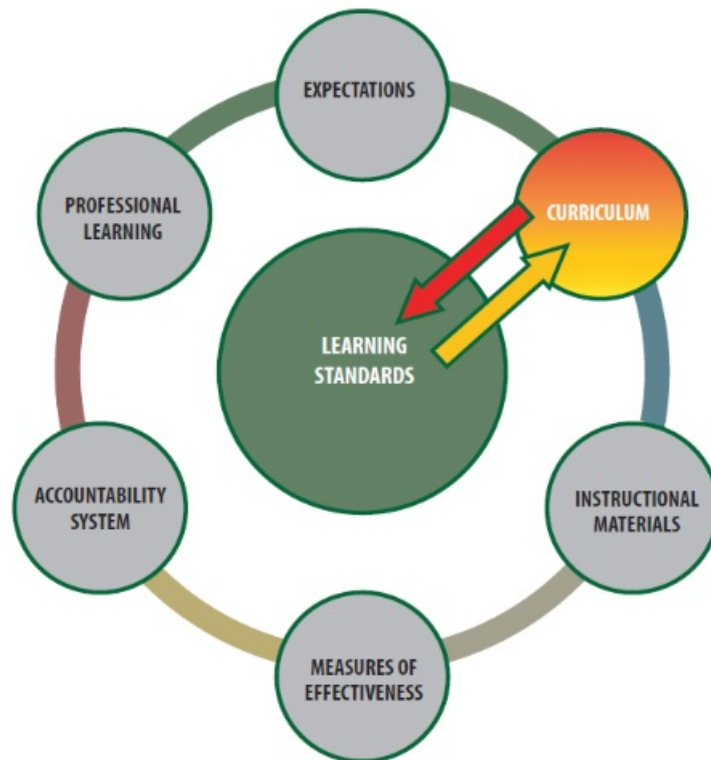
This report spotlights examples of new and different approaches for collaboration, communities of practice, and intentional communication to spread and build upon this work.

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Tools & Resources

Curriculum Must Align with Standards for Learning



SOURCE: NASBE'S CENTER FOR COLLEGE, CAREER, AND CIVIC READINESS

This NASBE Policy Update, *Curriculum in a Standards-Based Learning System*, gives state boards of education ideas on how to implement curriculum frameworks, individualized learning plans, and centralized resource websites that guide educators as they align curriculum with standards.

This resource provides insights into how state boards can train local district leaders on how to develop a standards-based curriculum framework and a create a platform for educators to access, share, and learn about standards-aligned curricula.

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We want to hear from you!

Send your state's stories or organization's resources to communications@ccsso.org



The States Leading campaign celebrates the progress states are making toward providing equitable education for all students through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and innovative policies in other key areas of education, such as early childhood education, teacher preparation, and career readiness, among others.

Thank you to our proud partners:

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The National Association of State Boards of Education
National Conference of State Legislatures
The Hunt Institute
The Foundation for Excellence in Education

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