

Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association Resolution on Common Core State Standards

WHEREAS: RI School Superintendents' Association (RISSA) is committed to ensuring all students demonstrate proficiency with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in post-secondary education, careers, and citizenship within a global society;

WHEREAS: It is important to the economic well-being of our local businesses, local communities, Rhode Island, and the United States of America that our students have the knowledge and skills to compete with students and adults regionally, nationally, and internationally;

WHEREAS: Rhode Island students, teachers, and administrators have been incorporating state adopted standards into curriculum since 1997;

WHEREAS: Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are learning targets, not prescribed curriculum documents that require prescribed instructional practices;

WHEREAS: CCSS do not require the use of a State Assessment or specific local assessments;

WHEREAS: CCSS will enable us to purchase textbooks and instructional materials that align to standards adopted for RI students instead of using textbooks written for the standards of much larger states;

WHEREAS: RI General Law § 16-2-9 (a) states: "The entire care, control, and management of all public school interests of the several cities and towns shall be vested in the school committees of the several cities and towns" and "School committees shall have, in addition to those enumerated in this title, the following powers and duties: (a)(20) to establish policies governing curriculum, courses of instruction, and text books"; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association supports Rhode Island's adoption of the Common Core State Standards as they improve on our previous state standards;

RESOLVED: RISSA is committed to challenging and engaging all students in rigorous curriculum with academic, career, fine art, and co-curricular learning experiences that go beyond the learning targets found in the CCSS;

RESOLVED: RISSA supports adoption, at the local level, of rigorous curriculum, highly-effective instructional practices, and local assessments of students' mastery of the CCSS learning targets and other content and performance standards;

RESOLVED: RISSA supports the internal and cross-district selection and development of instructional materials aligned to CCSS and other content and performance standards;

RESOLVED: RISSA supports a substantial investment in ongoing professional development that is essential for teachers and administrators to fully understand and integrate CCSS into curriculum, instruction, and assessments at the local level; and

RESOLVED: RISSA supports the investment of resources to replace existing textbooks, instructional materials and technologies designed for older standards with new textbooks, instructional materials and technologies explicitly aligned to Common Core State Standards and student performance expectations;

RESOLVED: That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the RI Board of Education, the Commissioner of Education, every Rhode Island School Committee, State Senator and State Representative, and the Governor.

Adopted: May 1, 2014 by the General Membership of the RI School Superintendents' Association