



*Office of the  
Superintendent of  
Schools*

Bishop Felipe Estévez  
Tenth Bishop of DOSA

Dcn. Scott J. Conway  
Superintendent

Kathi Falk  
Curriculum Coordinator

Krissy Thompson  
Principal

# COMMON CORE CURRICULUM TASK FORCE

# POSITION STATEMENT

The Diocese of St. Augustine is committed to providing academic excellence, promoting Catholic values, and preparing every child for college, career, and eternal life.

Catholic schools in the Diocese of St. Augustine teach a curriculum that is informed by and aligned with state standards and the National Catholic Standards and Benchmarks. Education in our Catholic schools ensures that all students are meeting the state requirements for graduation and beyond. Currently of concern is the recent emergence of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The diocese has not and will not adopt the Common Core State Standards. Our mission is to offer excellent religious, academic, extra- and co-curricular programs. Therefore, we are obligated to set a higher standard than the state. This commitment not only raises the standards of teaching and learning for all subjects, but also includes the teaching of religion, which grounds the mission of the Catholic school. Annual assessments of student learning and regularly scheduled accreditation visits to our schools affirm that we are succeeding in our mission.



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Office**

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Roberta Wente  
Administrative Assistant



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# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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# WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STANDARDS AND CURRICULUM?

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Standards outline what a student should *know* and *be able to do* at the end of each grade level. For example, in math, the standards include whole numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, and decimals. In addition, the standards require that students apply mathematical thinking and reasoning. The curriculum is the body of knowledge a student receives through a program of study. Students in our Catholic schools follow a curriculum that is built upon standards set by the Diocese of St. Augustine and aligned with the National Catholic Standards and the Florida State Standards.



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# WHERE DO THE DIOCESAN STANDARDS COME FROM AND HOW DO I FIND THESE STANDARDS?

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The Bishop appoints a diocesan committee of educators to review the diocesan standards by subject area as part of a five year plan. The committee carefully reviews and edits these standards to ensure continued relevance at each grade level and consistency with the teachings of the Catholic Church. Copies of these standards can be accessed through the administration at each respective school.



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# CURRICULUM REVISION CYCLE



DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE  
OFFICE OF EDUCATION  
CURRICULUM REVISION CYCLE



*Diocese of  
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SUBJECT AREA	Year I	Year II	Year III	Year IV	Year V
Reading/Literature	Revision				
Language Arts, PK-12	Revision				
Mathematics, PK-12	Revision				
Religion, PK-12		Revision			
Science, PK-12		Revision			
Social Studies, PK-12		Revision			
Technology, PK-12			Revision		
Foreign Language, PK-12			Revision		
Physical Education, PK-8				Revision	
Life Management Skills & Personal Fitness, gr. 9				Revision	
Fine Arts, gr. 9-12					Revision
Media Research, PK-12					Revision
Music, PK-8					Revision
Art, PK-12					Revision

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# HOW ARE TEXTBOOKS AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES SELECTED AND USED IN OUR SCHOOLS?

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# TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are tools used to guide and support instruction. The diocesan offices, including the Office of Christian Formation and the Office of the Superintendent oversee the process of textbook selection which is conducted by faculty and/or administration with professional expertise in each subject area. Textbooks from multiple publishers are reviewed and selections are submitted to the administration and the diocese for approval. All books and instructional materials are carefully screened by each school to ensure that they are appropriate, of good quality, and consistent with our Catholic identity.



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# TECHNOLOGY

The use of technology is specific to each school. The technological resources used are determined by the faculty and administration of each school with input from the Office of the Superintendent. Decisions are made after considering the school's educational philosophy, the needs of the student population, and budgetary constraints. Parental questions and concerns about educational resources should be directed to each respective school's administration.



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IF WE HAVE NOT ADOPTED  
THE COMMON CORE STATE  
STANDARDS, WHY DO THE  
WORDS “COMMON CORE”  
APPEAR ON THE COVER OF  
SOME OF OUR TEXTBOOKS?

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Because over 80% of the education market is geared to the CCSS, publishers have no choice but to move in that direction. There will likely be some textbooks and resource materials in our schools that will be stamped or marked as “Common Core Compatible” or some similar notation. Many of the resources our teachers have been using for years are now being redistributed by publishers with the “Common Core” brand. In most instances, these are the same books our teachers used before the CCSS were developed. In other cases the texts may have been developed for the CCSS and could also meet our needs. Textbooks are tools we use, not the curriculum we teach. For years, our teachers have been teaching a rigorous curriculum which includes the use of higher-order thinking skills. The CCSS lack the key element that has made our schools successful - all that we teach and do in our schools is rooted in our Catholic faith.



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HAS THE DIOCESE OF ST.  
AUGUSTINE OR ANY OF ITS  
SCHOOLS RECEIVED ANY  
STATE OR FEDERAL MONEY  
ATTACHED TO CCSS OR  
CURRICULUM?

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No. Neither the diocese nor any of its schools have ever received any funds attached to CCSS or curriculum.



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# THE COMMON CORE TEAM

- ◉ Deacon David Yazdiya, Chair
- ◉ Deacon Scott Conway, Superintendent
- ◉ Mrs. Kelly Brown, Dean of Academics - BJS
- ◉ Mrs. Debbie Coultrip, Dean of Academics, BK
- ◉ Mrs. Marcia Sayer
- ◉ Mrs. Adrianna Cascante
- ◉ Mrs. Kerry Brophy
- ◉ Mrs. Cherilyn Canavan
- ◉ Mr. Lewis Lawrence
- ◉ Mrs. Julie Maher
- ◉ Dr. Maria Rose Tapia



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