



From the Desk of the Superintendent of Schools: Information About Common Core for Parents

1. Is student data being shared with inBloom?

(inBloom is an electronic portal that is being used by public schools to store student data)

No. The Archdiocese of New York requested and received a clarification memo from the Executive Director of the New York State Education Department's Data Systems and Educational Technology Bureau stating that test data the State will store in a data warehouse known as inBloom will not have access to any test data for our Catholic school students in the Archdiocese of New York.

2. Is Catholic identity being maintained and fostered in our schools?

Yes. Common Core is not a curriculum; rather, it is a set of grade level proficiency standards. And, our Catholic school teachers continue to make decisions regarding what resources they will use to ensure students meet these standards. As an added measure, the Common Core Catholic Identity Initiative (CCCII) was created to provide resources for teachers to use which infuse Catholic teachings and values into classroom instruction. These resources are available at www.cccii-online.org.

3. Has the timing for implementing the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) changed?

Yes. The New York State Board of Regents recently decided to adjust the implementation schedule for the CCLS and related assessments. Delays made to the implementation schedule include:

- (1) High schools will be given more time to meet Common Core standards. The first class to face the higher requirements to pass Common Core-based Regents exams will be the class of 2022.
- (2) As a follow-up to the previous statement, the new Level 2 on the grades 3-8 ELA and Math tests will correspond to present-day requirements for being on track for Regents exam passing for graduation.
- (3) Consideration of computer-based testing will be delayed to the 2015-16 school year.

With these changes, the New York State Board of Regents reaffirmed its overall commitment to the Common Core.

4. Are the archdiocesan “interim assessments” tests? Are they factored into student report cards?

No. The archdiocesan interim assessments are a tool to help teachers evaluate their students' mastery of specific skills, and, in turn, inform instruction. The results of interim assessments provide teachers with an up-to-date “snapshot” of the progress of their class at a certain point in time. They are not tests and results of interim assessments are not included in student report cards.