



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Common Core State Standards Strategic Plan

December 2012

Common Core State Standards & Smarter Balanced

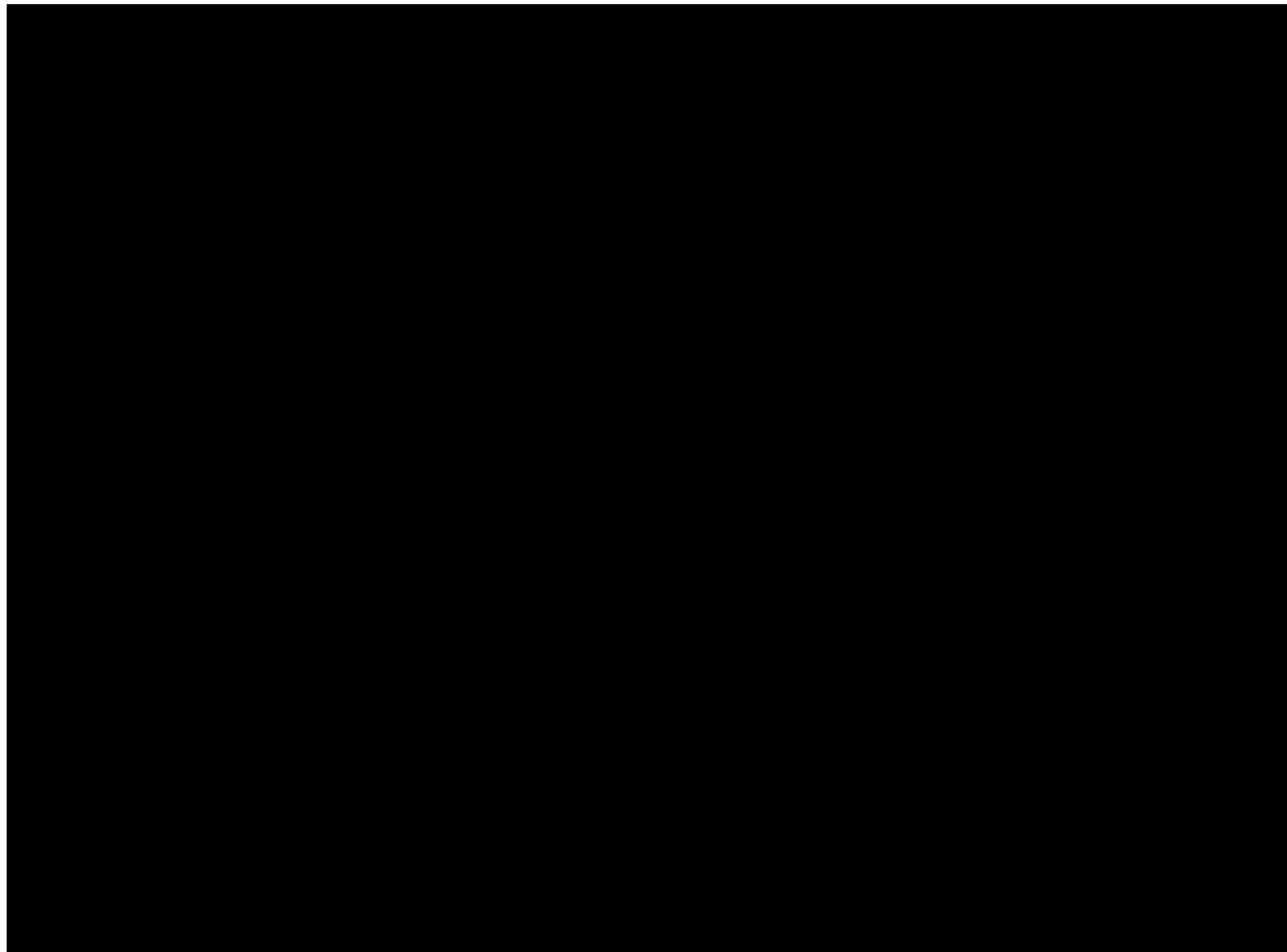
What are the Common Core State Standards?

The Common Core State Standards (Common Core or CCSS) are a set of K-12 expectations for English language arts and mathematics, adopted by 45 states across the country and designed to ensure all students are able to compete and succeed globally.

When did Connecticut adopt the Common Core?

On July 7, 2010, the State Board of Education adopted the Common Core as Connecticut's standards in English language arts and mathematics.

Why did Connecticut adopt the Common Core?



What's new about the Common Core?

The Common Core State Standards are fewer but higher and clearer standards, which are comparable across states and progressively aligned with what children need to know to be ready for college and career.

They require states to focus on what children know and don't know before they move-on.

The Instructional Shifts in the Classroom

English language arts (ELA)

- Building knowledge through content-rich **nonfiction and informational texts**
- Reading, writing and speaking grounded in **evidence from text**, both literary and informational
- Regular practice with **complex text** and its academic language

Mathematics

- **Focus** Strongly where the Standards focus
- **Coherence**: Think across grades, and link to major topics within grades
- **Rigor**: In major topics, pursue conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application

What is Smarter Balanced?

Smarter Balanced is a state-led consortium developing a next-generation assessment system aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

A subset of the 25 Smarter Balanced states, including Connecticut, make-up its Governing Board, which has a vote in policy decisions for over 19 million K-12 students nationwide.

What are the Smarter Balanced assessments?

The Smarter Balanced summative and interim assessments are valid, reliable, and fair.

The system will use computer adaptive testing technologies to the greatest extent possible to provide meaningful feedback and actionable data that educators can use to help students succeed.

College- and Career-Ready

Connecticut State Department of Education Mission

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) will empower districts to leverage the Common Core so that all students are ready for college and career.

For all students to become college- and career-ready,

in partnership, the CSDE will...

...align curriculum, instruction, assessments, and program resources to the Common Core.

...communicate with and integrate diverse stakeholders into Common Core efforts.

...organize staff, financial, and other resources to achieve college- and career-ready goals.

For all students to become college- and career-ready,

in partnership, the CSDE will...

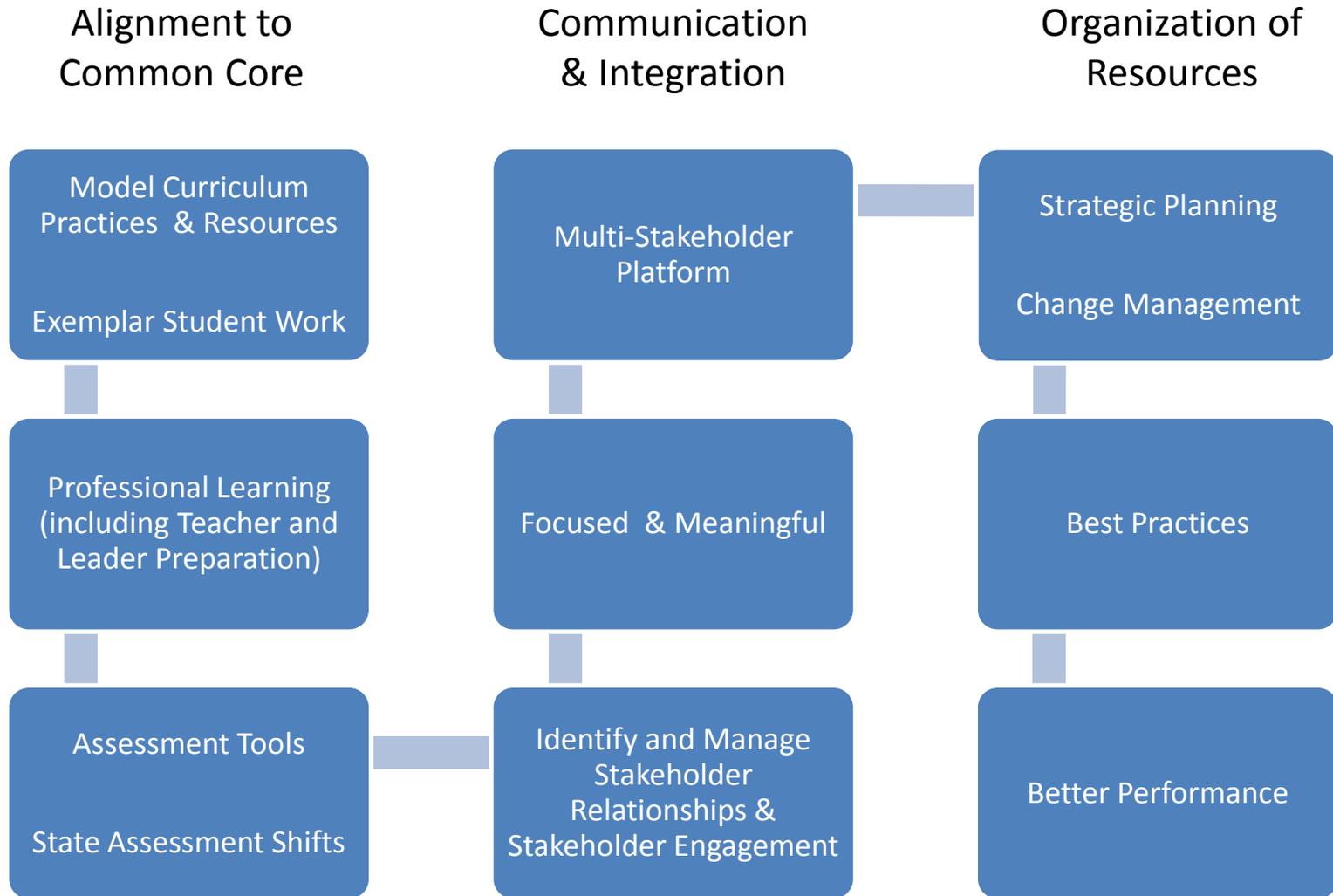
...alignment to Common Core.

...communication and integration.

...organization of resources.

**None of this is possible without
meaningful parental and community engagement.**

The CSDE will provide guidance and support



Alignment to the Common Core State Standards

All content/subject areas need to incorporate the instructional shifts for all students in all grade levels.

CSDE will support these instructional shifts by identifying, revising, and making available model curriculum practices and resources, exemplar programs and student work, CCSS-aligned professional learning, assessment tools, and assessments to all districts.

The Instructional Shifts in the Classroom

English language arts (ELA)

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Mathematics

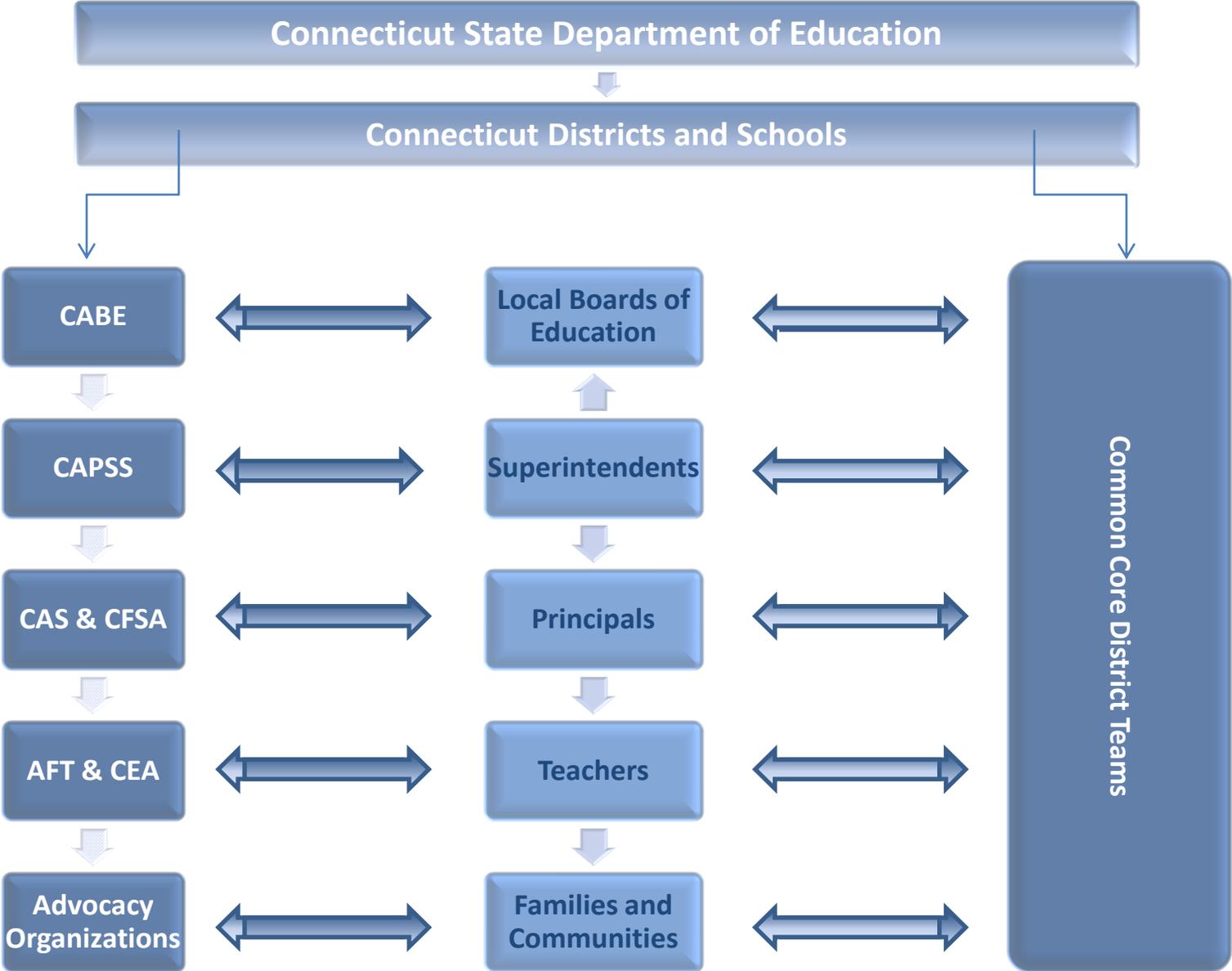
- **Focus** Strongly where the Standards focus
- **Coherence**: Think across grades, and link to major topics within grades
- **Rigor**: In major topics, pursue conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application

Communication and Integration

All communication around the Common Core State Standards from all educational stakeholders must be coordinated and consistent.

The CSDE will create a systemic communications platform that engages “Common Core District Teams” and integrates educational stakeholders. Communication will be focused, meaningful, and provided in multiple mediums. Roles and responsibilities of the CSDE, districts, higher education institutions, and educational stakeholders will be clearly delineated.

Common Core District Teams



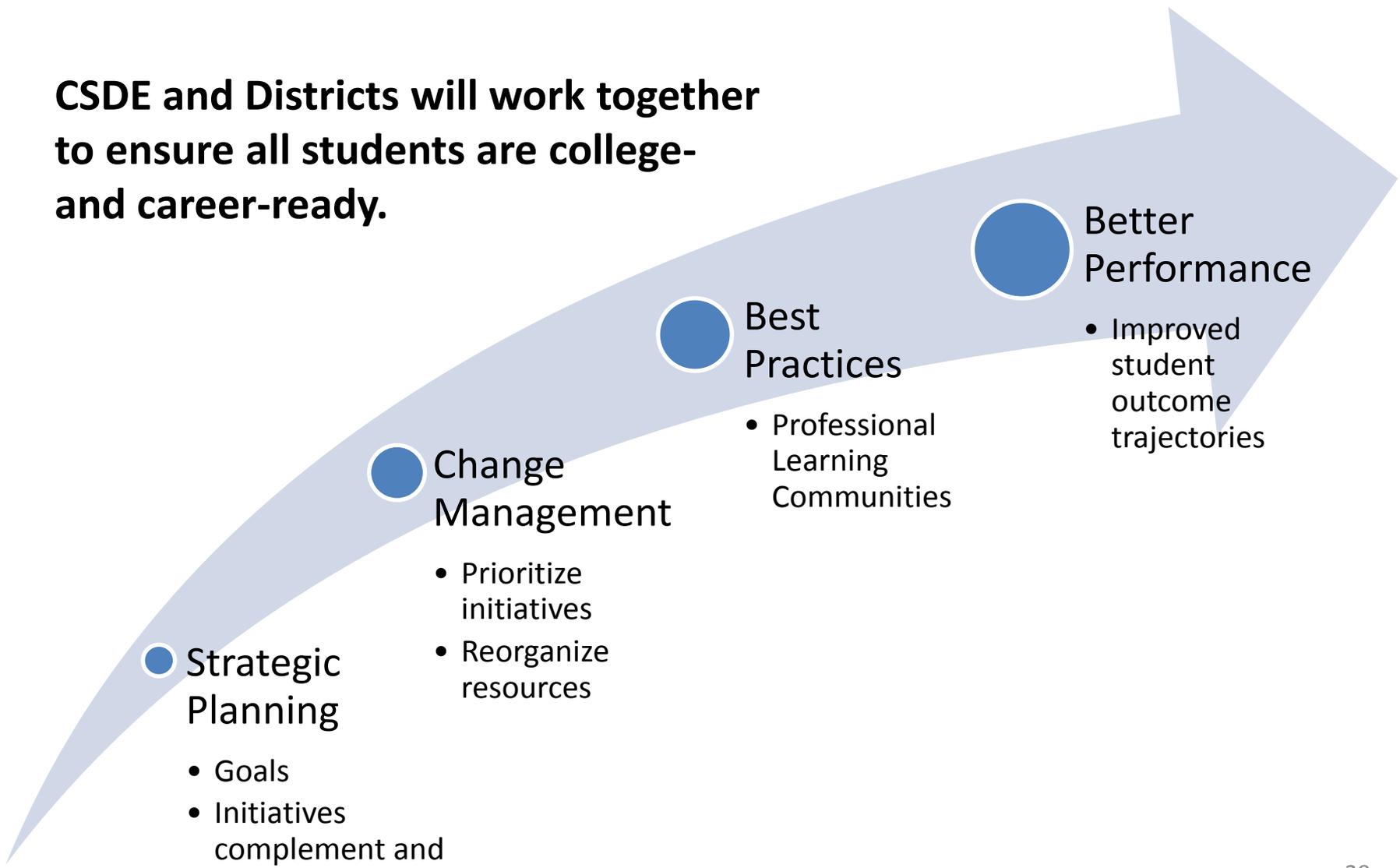
Organization of Resources

All Connecticut districts must effectively support the implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

The CSDE will reorganize and, with educational stakeholders, coordinate internal resources to support districts in the implementation of the Common Core and make external resources more accessible. The CSDE will work with Superintendents to strategize and better allocate and/or reallocate resources to yield results based on each district's goals.

Trajectory Toward Student Success

CSDE and Districts will work together to ensure all students are college- and career-ready.



Strategic Planning

- Goals
- Initiatives complement and are coordinated

Change Management

- Prioritize initiatives
- Reorganize resources

Best Practices

- Professional Learning Communities

Better Performance

- Improved student outcome trajectories

Implementation Timelines

Timeline at a Glance

Reset

- Strategic Plan
- Curriculum, Professional Learning, and Assessment Alignment to CCSS
- Statewide Workshop

**December 2012–
February 2013**

Prepare

- New “Practice” CCSS-aligned Assessment
- CCSS District Team Meetings
- Plan and Train Districts for 2013-2014

March – July 2013

Implement

- Statewide implementation of CCSS and CCSS-aligned Assessment
- Pilot Technology Plan
- Collect information from select districts

August 2013-2014

Improve

- Provide feedback from select districts to improve upon implementation of CCSS
- Statewide implementation of Smarter Balanced Assessments

August 2014-2015

December 2012 – February 2013

Districts will commit to:

- Creating a Common Core District Team with guidance from the CSDE *and* attending the Common Core District Team meetings
- Engaging with the CSDE in content specific Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Nominating educators to become Common Core Coaches

The CSDE will support districts by:

- Exploring and analyzing the possibility of providing a new “Practice” Common Core-aligned state assessment in the Spring of 2013
- Providing coordinated and consistent communication through the Common Core District Teams and other mediums *as well as* setting Common Core District Team meetings, the first of which will be a statewide workshop in February
- Aligning and making available model curriculum practices and resources & exemplar student work

March – July 2013

Districts will commit to:

- Participating in the Common Core District Team meetings
- Participating in the ELA and Math PLCs
- Planning and training for statewide implementation of the Common Core and new Common Core-aligned assessment in August 2013-2014

The CSDE will support districts by:

- Providing coordinated and consistent communication through the Common Core District Teams and other mediums *as well as* setting Common Core District Team meetings
- Organizing ELA and Math PLCs for districts to learn and share best practices as well as share lessons learned
- Aligning and making available model curriculum practices and resources & exemplar student work, professional learning, & pilot assessments

August 2013 – August 2014

Districts will commit to:

- Participating in the ELA and Math PLCs
- Implementing Common Core and new Common Core-aligned assessment
- Participating in the pilot Technology Plan
- Inviting CSDE to visit and view implementation of Common Core in classrooms
- Providing feedback to the CSDE on how to improve upon implementation of Common Core in 2014-2015

The CSDE will support districts by:

- Providing coordinated and consistent communication through the Common Core District Teams and other mediums
- Organizing ELA and Math PLCs for districts to learn and share best practices as well as share lessons learned
- Aligning and making available model curriculum practices and resources & exemplar student work, professional learning, assessment tools, & assessments



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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