

**COMMON CORE STANDARDS IN THE DIOCESE OF RALEIGH  
POSITION STATEMENT  
OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

The Diocese of Raleigh began to include the common core standards as part of the resources used to revise our Diocesan curriculum in 2010. The Common Core Standards are a response to a need for students to be exposed to highly rigorous and authentically relevant standards in math and language arts. The focus is on learning expectations and not on how to teach content. The standards help students develop skills that are necessary for success.

The national controversial issues include:

- Data collection and warehousing of student information
- The elimination of cursive writing
- The elimination of “the classics” in language arts
- The mandated use of state tests and by extension, the state curriculum
- Loss of local control and a loss of Catholic identity.

The response from the office of Catholic schools is:

- The Diocese will maintain total control over the curriculum and how it is taught.
- The Common Core is not the curriculum. It is an augmentation of the curriculum. Woven into every subject are Catholic attitudes and beliefs. These will never be sacrificed.
- We will not sacrifice our core values.
- We will not participate in any state or federal warehousing of student information
- We will continue to teach cursive writing and test writing with our own assessments
- We are not required to participate in any state across –the- board standardized testing as a result of the Common Core Standards

Why are we involved with the Common Core initiative? There are several reasons:

- The nationally standardized tests that are administered in the Diocese of Raleigh (ITBS, for example) are incorporating them into their assessments
- Students who leave Catholic schools and go to public schools and universities will need to have engaged in the Common Core in order to be successful
- College entrance tests (SAT,ACT) are incorporating Common Core Standards into their assessments
- The Common Core emphasizes critical thinking skills, creativity, and intellectual flexibility
- Common Core Standards are reflected in the standards of AdvancEd, the nationally accrediting agency that accredits our schools.