Aligning Common Core Standards to the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards

By Joan Naomi Steiner, WASCD Past President, Director of Instructional Services, School District of New Holstein

I have recently heard many of my colleagues ask how the new Common Core Standards align to the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts. This is an important question, particularly as K-12 programs come up for review in districts. At the Fall Conference, the Department of Public Instruction’s session entitled “Using Data as a Vehicle for Change,” gave me helpful ideas for transitioning a K-12 program area from one set of standards to another.

One of the “vehicles” for change is the Surveys of Enacted Curriculum (SEC). The SEC is a 90-minute survey taken by K-12 teachers who teach the content area. The data is electronically compiled and reports are visual representations showing to what extent the new Common Core Standards are currently being taught. With this tool, review teams can begin to analyze the SEC data, and teachers can gain a deeper understanding of how the Common Core applies to their everyday classroom teaching. SEC for the new Common Core in Mathematics and in English Language Arts are available now.

Since the Common Core for Science and Social Studies are still under development, the SEC reports data aligned to the current Model Academic Standards for those content areas. When the new Common Core for Science and Social Studies are released, the data will be electronically re-analyzed by the Common Core.

In the past, I have used the Surveys of Enacted Curriculum data with K-12 Science teams to inform instructional and curricular decisions. I am delighted to know that the tool will be aligned to the new Common Core in Science and Social Studies. Even better, the SEC for Mathematics and for English Language Arts are available now. For more information, go to seconline. Use guest as your user name and password. Or you may want to contact the conference presenter, Shelley Lee, DPI Science Consultant at shelley.lee@dpi.wi.gov