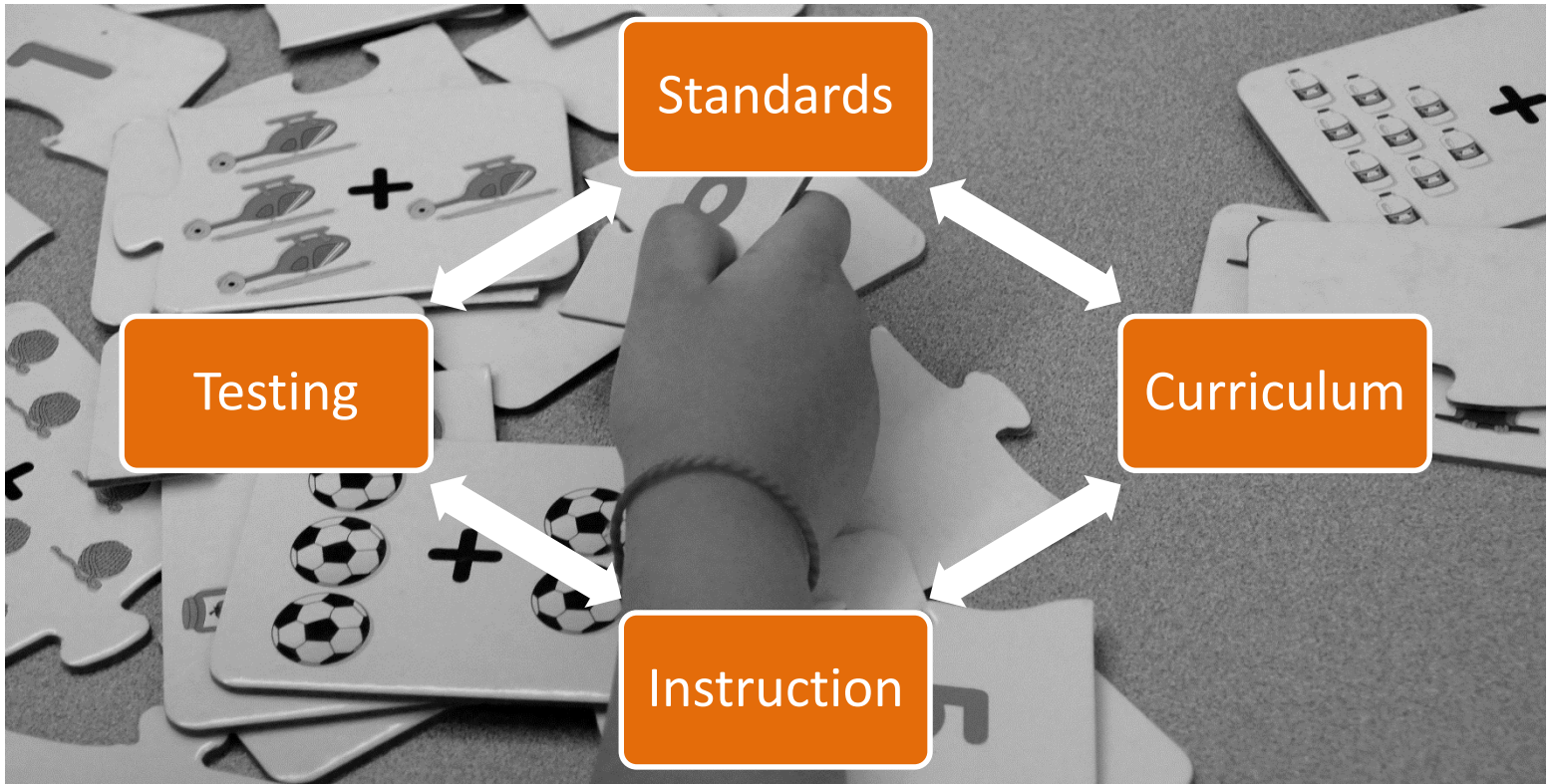


2018 Back-to-School Basics:

How the state and local school districts work together to serve *your* child



The state's role

The state works with Massachusetts educators to set statewide learning standards that outline what students should know and be able to do in each subject area and grade level. The standards set high expectations for all students, regardless of where a student attends school.

Teachers use standards to help guide instruction

The learning standards are basically a series of goals. It's up to school districts and educators at the local level to decide what curriculum, which materials, and which lessons plans will help students meet those goals. (Massachusetts does not have state-mandated curricula and textbooks).

The [MCAS](#), an annual statewide test, gives parents, educators, and community members an objective look at students' and schools' progress toward meeting the learning standards.

Instruction is the core

Teachers help students build on their knowledge each year, develop the habits of life-long learners, engage with their community, and build a foundation that will help them succeed after high school. If you have questions about your child's work or how best to support their learning, please start by contacting your child's teacher.

If you know of outstanding educators in your school district, consider [nominating them](#) for one of several awards.