

Common Core State Standards

Dear Parents,

The term **Common Core State Standards (CCSS)** is one that you will hear often over the next few years. It refers to a shared set of learning expectations in **English Language Arts (ELA)** and **Mathematics**. The **CCSS** were developed by teachers, administrators, parents and education experts from across the nation to ensure that all students graduate with the skills needed to be career or college ready.



The State of Connecticut adopted the **CCSS** in July 2010. Though Connecticut's standards and the **CCSS** are very similar there has been some realignment of curriculum and expectations at grade levels. The **CCSS** were developed to be rigorous and relevant to the real world.



How will the new standards affect your children? Some of the information students learn in school will be new and some content will be taught at different grade levels than in the past. This spring, you will also notice some changes in how state tests are conducted in order to measure student proficiency in the new standards. We will be administering the **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)** Field Test to set the stage for the new assessment for all schools in CT in spring 2015. At first students may not score well on state tests because of the change in content and format. That does not mean that they know less than the year before or that they are not succeeding in school. We are all working to reach the new bar that has been set by **CCSS**.

If you have questions or concerns about the **CCSS** and/or the **SBAC** Assessment, please speak to your school principal and/or your child's teacher. You can also contact me or go to our district website for more information. There are links under the Curriculum heading regarding **CCSS**. Working together, I look forward to seeing the higher levels of academic achievement and the deeper understanding the **CCSS** will bring to our students in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanne D. Beekley".

Joanne D. Beekley, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent