THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS (CCSS): AN OVERVIEW FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Beginning this year, classrooms across 45 States are incorporating the Common Core State Standards into the curriculum to drive student learning and prepare students for the 21st century schools and work force they will join upon completion of their secondary education. Here is a brief overview of what the standards are, what they mean for Chaffey Joint Union High School students and how they guide student learning.

At Chaffey Joint Union High School District, "Nothing is more important than student learning and student achievement."

What are the CCSS?

- The CCSS describe what students should know and be able to do in each subject in each grade. Teachers, parents, and education experts from all across the country designed the standards to prepare students for success in college and the workplace.
- *English Language Arts Overview*: Students get a deep and complex understanding of a variety of skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening, language and media and technology. While this has always been an important component of our classrooms, the emphasis is now on student-generated research, collaboration and discussion to prepare them for scenarios they are likely to encounter in the workplace.
- *Math Overview:* The math standards develop not only what students should learn, but what student learning should look like in a math classroom.
- Social Studies and Science Overview: The literacy standards for social studies, science and technical education focus on developing reading and writing skills specific to these content areas so that students develop literacy skills across all subjects.

How do CCSS impact students?

- The CCSS emphasize preparing students for the college and career world through the focus on 21st century skills: communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity. Students will be challenged throughout high school to develop and hone these skills.

How will the classroom change?

- CCSS-aligned lessons empower students to engage in their learning in a deep and thoughtful way. Students are encouraged to seek answers through research, small-group collaboration and teacher-guided instruction. Students model their learning in a myriad of ways, including real-world modeled projects, class discussion and written responses.

Helpful Resources for Parents:

CA Dept. of Education: http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cc

CCSS Main Page: http://www.corestandards.org

Assessment Information: http://www.smarterbalanced.org

2014-2015: 1st Year of Common Core Assessments with 11th Grade Students in Math and ELA