



**State of New Jersey**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

DAVID C. HESPE  
*Acting Commissioner*

October 14, 2014

**TO:** Chief School Administrators  
Charter School Lead Persons  
Non-public School Administrators

**FROM:** Kimberley Harrington, Chief Academic Officer  
Division of Academics

**SUBJECT:** Common Core Update

The State Board of Education readopted the Common Core State Standards on July 9, 2014. As schools continue to implement the standards daily in their classroom instruction, it is important to ensure parents and community members are informed about what these instructional changes mean for their children and what they can expect to see their children working on throughout the year. The NJDOE, in partnership with the state associations, designed a brochure to help parents and community members understand the Common Core State Standards. Paper copies of the brochure are being made available to districts through the associations and a digital copy can be found <http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/toolkit/CCSSNJBrochure.pdf>. Please post the link on your website.

In an effort to support this important communication work being done in the field, the Division of Academics has developed a series of materials for school administrators and teachers to use when communicating with parents. These materials are written in parent-friendly language and can be used for school publications, parent nights, conference handouts, etc. In addition, a framework to support a yearlong, consistent communication approach has been developed, Parent Academy for Student Success (PASS), complete with all supporting materials and implementation guidelines. It is my hope that this program and materials will allow you to maximize your time and support you in the work you are already doing with parents and community members.

The materials produced are as follows:

- CCSS for Parents and Families: Overview
- CCSS for Parents and Families: Myths & Facts
- CCSS for Parents and Families: Resources
- Common Core Brochure
- Parent Academy for Student Success (PASS) suggested framework and materials (coming soon)

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/toolkit/>

[www.nj.gov/education](http://www.nj.gov/education)

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You will also find talking points for key stakeholders attached to this document:

- CCSS Talking Points for Board Members
- CCSS Talking Points for Superintendents
- CCSS Talking Points for Principals
- CCSS Talking Points for Teachers

Thank you for all you do to support parents and community members in your district. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call the Division of Academics at 609-292-7536.

KH/gm

Attachment

c: Members, State Board of Education  
David C. Hespe, Acting Commissioner  
Senior Staff  
Nancy Curry  
Kelly Allen  
Elaine Lerner  
Greg Kocher  
Executive County Business Officials  
Executive County Superintendents  
Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers  
NJ LEE Group  
Garden State Coalition of Schools