



## Members of the Board

Jeanette J. Amavisca  
Priscilla S. Cox  
Carmine S. Forcina  
Steve Ly  
Chet Madison, Sr.  
Anthony "Tony" Perez  
Bobbie Singh-Allen

Robert L. Trigg Education Center  
9510 Elk Grove-Florin Road • Elk Grove, CA 95624

**Steven M. Ladd, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

(916) 686-7700  
(916) 686-7787  
sladd@egusd.net

May 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In 2010, California joined 44 states across the U.S. in the adoption of academic standards for English and mathematics – the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). These new standards are focused on preparing students with real-world skills and knowledge that will enable them to compete in a 21<sup>st</sup> century global marketplace.

The Elk Grove Unified School District's (EGUSD) implementation of the CCSS began this school year at elementary schools, with the introduction of mathematics in grades K-2 and English Language Arts (ELA) in grades 3-6. Next school year, the District will expand its transition to the CCSS to all grade levels. Elementary schools will add ELA in grades K-2 and mathematics in grades 3-6. At the middle and high schools, in 2013-2014, the CCSS mathematics and ELA standards (including literacy standards for science and history/social sciences) will be taught at all grade levels.

We are fortunate to have our work surrounding the CCSS mathematics reinforced by a Math in Common grant from the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation. EGUSD is one of nine California school districts to receive this grant which will support and accelerate the transition to the new mathematic standards in grades K-8.

The adoption of the CCSS is a significant undertaking which will allow the District to continue to move forward with rigorous and relevant instruction. However, this shift means that we are in a period of transition. One area where this will be most apparent is in state tests that measure student performance. California's current system of assessments, the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program, also known as California Standards Tests, are aligned to the state's previous academic content standards.

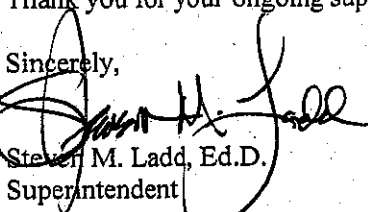
With the arrival of the CCSS, California will direct its system of assessment to be fully aligned by the spring of 2015. Our state is a lead member of the national Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, which has worked collaboratively to develop a student assessment system aligned with the CCSS. California's plan includes shifting from paper-and-pencil tests to computerized assessments starting in the 2014-15 school year. The new assessments are designed to meet federal- and state-level accountability requirements and provide teachers and parents with timely and accurate information to measure and track individual student growth.

As the state moves forward with the changes to assessments, there may be a gap between the alignment of state standardized tests, the new CCSS standards and student performance. Challenges and questions that surround the use of computerized testing, as well as the length of time needed to complete the required tests, may also contribute to the gap. However, I am confident that we will make a successful shift to the CCSS so that our students will be successful and competitive in a 21<sup>st</sup> century global marketplace.

In the coming months, we will be sharing more information with parents about the CCSS, including resources that will assist in a better understanding of these new standards. I encourage you to review more information on EGUSD's CCSS website at <http://blogs.egusd.net/ccss/>.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Elk Grove Unified School District and our schools.

Sincerely,

  
Steven M. Ladd, Ed.D.  
Superintendent