

PART 1

Common Core State Standards: What are they All About?

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"High achievement always takes place in the framework of high expectation.

—Charles Kettering (1876-1958).

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) were adopted in 2010 through the work of the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. The CCSS were designed to ensure all educators have a clear understanding of what students need to know and be able to do in preparation for college and career. The Mission Statement behind the CCSS is as follows:

The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy (Common Core state Standards <http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards>).

The standards will change the way educators prepare our students for their future. In fact, classrooms will start to emulate the environment we want to foster in the university classroom and the workplace. This shift will include:

- how to think and learn using metacognitive strategies;
- how to collaborate effectively as an integral part of a team;
- how to solve problems with limited resources;
- how to communicate using a variety of formats, including speaking, writing, analyzing graphs and charts, nonlinguistic representations, and through digital imagery,

As the Bloomfield Public Schools begins the districtwide effort to embed the CCSS in daily instruction, it is critical that educators see the relationships among all subject areas to ensure our students make connections to new learning by associating knowledge and skills to prior understanding. Let's align our vision with our actions to join the quote above to our reality in what we expect to see every day in our schools.