



Lincoln Learns the Core...

As you might recall, back in November Lincoln held a parent education night focused on California's transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). At that meeting much information was shared on how this transition came about and what TUSD's plan is to ensure that our students are on track and prepared for the demands that come with this new set of standards. As part of Lincoln's on-going mission to prepare our students, we must continue the conversation started back in November so that you are kept abreast of this shift in education, thereby assisting in your ability to best support your child's learning at home. Monthly, I will be sharing information about CCSS as well as answers to frequently asked questions.

What are the Common Core State Standards?

Led by an effort coordinated by the National Governor's Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers, the CCSS are a set of shared k-12 learning expectations for students in English language arts and mathematics. A variety of stakeholders including content experts, state education leaders, teachers, school administrators and parents took part in the development of the CCSS. The standards are designed to be rigorous and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our children need for success in college, career and beyond.

Why do we need new educational standards?

Because of the wide disparity of what students are expected to learn from state to state, we need standards that all students, no matter where they live, can access that ensures their readiness for postsecondary education and the 21st century workforce. Common standards level the playing field and help to address issues of inconsistency and quality of learning across schools, districts, and the state. CCSS also affords us an opportunity to collaborate within and across the state to improve our ability to best serve the needs of students. It's key to know that standards do not dictate how to teach, but they do assist teachers in figuring out the knowledge and skills necessary for a child's success, thereby helping to create the best lessons and environments for learning. Standards, of course, are not the only element needed for our students' success, however they are a first step – a critical building block – in providing an accessible roadmap that all educational stakeholders can follow in our on-going quest to prepare our children to be positive, productive, contributing members of society.