



**FREMONT  
UNIFIED SCHOOL  
DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Lara Calvert-York**

**Desrie Campbell**

**Ann Crosbie**

**Lily Mei**

**Larry Sweeney**

**James Morris, Ed.D.**

*Superintendent*

(510) 659-2542

**Raul A. Parungao**

*Associate Superintendent*

(510) 659-2572

**Kim Wallace, Ed.D.**

*Assistant Superintendent,*

*Instruction*

(510) 659-2583

**Raúl M. Zamora, Ed.D.**

*Assistant Superintendent,*

*Human Resources*

(510) 659-2556

4210 Technology Drive

P.O. Box 5008

Fremont, California

94537-5008

(510) 657-2350

<http://www.fremont.k12.ca.us>

Dear FUSD Families & Community,

August 25, 2014

Welcome to the 2014-15 school year! The Instructional Services team is excited to share the district's plans for moving from the "transition phase" to a robust and successful K-12 Common Core State Standards (CCSS) implementation.

We've been asking for and listening to feedback to ensure that we are responding to whole district needs. Based on these ongoing conversations, we wanted to share what you can expect in the Fremont Unified School District this school year:

- As we move into full implementation mode, the Instructional Services department will be refining FUSD's **collective vision, outreach, timelines, and district-wide Common Core implementation plan**. Developments will be regularly shared via the district website, social media platforms, community meetings, and from school sites to parents.
- For Fremont to continue to be a center of innovation, we need our schools to prepare students who are ready for a complex and unpredictable future. Preparing for the opportunities ahead requires adding **new skills** to the traditional curriculum. That includes updating the ways we teach **English Language Arts, literacy and mathematics**. In the coming years, new science and social science standards will also be adopted and implemented.
- The CCSS are a focused set of up-to-date **learning goals** that students need to learn at each grade level to become active participants in our communities and workplaces. **Elementary report cards** have already been revised to reflect CCSS this fall. **Grades** will be reported in a different format than parents and students may be used to, so we will work hard to communicate these changes and solicit feedback on how to improve these tools for the long term.
- *Consider this analogy:* We're in the midst of a major **renovation** of our school system—updating the design of curriculum and instruction so we can focus on preparing Fremont students for the opportunities awaiting them. In any remodeling job, **there's bound to be dust, noise, and inconvenience**—but it's all worth it in the end. We understand that parents may have concerns and we want to reassure you that we are working to get it right for your children. At the same time, **educators need our patience and support** as they commit to these significant shifts. We're not at the final step yet—but we're making major strides toward getting there. Pardon our dust!

- School support is a priority and we will enhance our **two-way communication, follow-through, and responsiveness** to parent, student, and staff feedback regarding materials, assessments, and Common Core strategies that students are engaging in at school.
- Parents and guardians are crucial partners in laying the groundwork for a smooth transition to the new standards. Parents and guardians can:
  - Learn more about the CCSS by reviewing the **California Department of Education CCSS Web Page**: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/> (select “Students/Parents” tab)
  - Talk to the principal about the school’s implementation plans to learn what will be different about these new standards and what will remain the same for students.
  - Attend a board and/or community meeting to discuss district goals and timelines.
  - Meet with your child’s teacher to discuss what your child will be learning over the coming year and how classroom instruction will shift to align to the CCSS.
  - Play an active role in your child’s education at home. If you notice your child is struggling in a certain area, consult with his or her teacher to identify strategies and resources that might be helpful.
  - Explore opportunities to become actively involved in the Common Core transition through your state and local Parent-Teacher Association (PTA).

Have a great start to the new school year! We look forward to your partnership as FUSD implements these positive and promising changes in 2014-15.

Sincerely,

*Kim Wallace, Ed.D*  
*Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services*