

New Jersey Presidents' Council

P.O. BOX 36, MOUNTAIN LAKES, NEW JERSEY 07046
PHONE: (973) 334-2981 – FAX: (973) 334-2982 – E-MAIL: njpc@njedge.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 14, 2014

CONTACT: ALLISON SAMAY
(973) 334-2981

Presidents of New Jersey Colleges and Universities **Endorse Common Core State Standards**

New Brunswick, NJ – The New Jersey Presidents' Council, which represents presidents of all public and private, two-year and four-year colleges and universities in the state, announces that its members have unanimously voted to endorse the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

“The Common Core provides a roadmap for teachers and districts to develop courses that cultivate the deep understanding required for college preparation,” said a letter from Council Chair Steven M. Rose, president of Passaic County Community College. The letter, written on behalf of the Presidents' Council after it endorsed the Common Core at its Oct. 27 meeting, is to be delivered to the New Jersey State Board of Education. “New instructional approaches, expectations, and assignments in reading, writing, and mathematics have put New Jersey in position to transition successfully to the new system of standards and assessments.”

“We believe New Jersey's efforts to institute the Common Core has the potential to improve college readiness and help close the preparation gap for students in the state. Moreover, we are optimistic for the promise of more students graduating with mastery of grade level standards, and teachers, students, and parents having been given clear and consistent messages about readiness for success in higher education and the workforce,” said the Council's letter. “We endorse the plan to develop assessments of student performance to meet these standards which reinforce the more rigorous curriculum but do not lead to the unintentional consequence of ‘teaching to the test.’ Appropriate assessment of a student's performance in the curriculum should provide valuable information for the student, colleges and universities about the readiness of a student for introductory postsecondary courses. “

“The endorsement by the Council further illustrates the recognition from all levels of the education community of the importance of New Jersey's Common Core standards,” said Acting Education Commissioner David Hespe, noting that the Common Core State Standards have been supported by every major statewide education organization representing teachers (NJEA), principals (NJPSA), superintendents (NJASA), and school boards (NJSBA), as well as the New Jersey Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and state Chamber of Commerce. “As presidents of our state's colleges and universities, the members of the Presidents' Council are in a unique position to fully appreciate the importance of providing high school graduates with the requisite knowledge and skills to they need to succeed and flourish in college and in their careers.”

MORE

Steven M. Rose
Chair
President
Passaic County Community College

Richard A. Levao
Vice Chair
President
Bloomfield College

Joel Bloom
Secretary
President
New Jersey Institute of Technology

R. Barbara Gitenstein
Treasurer
President
The College of New Jersey

PRESIDENTS ENDORSE COMMON CORE – ADD ONE

“I am very pleased by today’s vote. From the beginning, New Jersey higher education institutions have supported the Common Core as the best way to help students arrive on campus prepared to do college level work,” said Secretary of Higher Education Rochelle Hendricks. “Today’s vote by the Presidents’ Council proves that higher education is united in partnership with educators on the K-12 level as we work together to implement new standards that will better prepare students for college and careers.”

New Jersey established its first educational standards two decades ago, giving local school districts the framework and expectations of what children are expected to know throughout their schooling in nine subject areas. Local school boards adopt the curriculum that they believe helps children best meet the standards. In 2010, the New Jersey State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards in math and English language arts, with the goal of graduating students that are college and career ready.

The New Jersey Presidents' Council was created in 1994 as part of The Higher Education Restructuring Act. The NJPC is an advisory body made up of the presidents of all the state's public and independent institutions of higher education that receive state aid. The Council's charge is to make recommendation on new programs, regional alliances, budget and student aid levels, licensure, and the statewide higher education master plan.

#####