



# CARROLL COUNTY SCHOOLS

Committed to Excellence  Focused on Success

August 7, 2012

Dear Parents:

Over the next few years you will notice some changes to instruction and testing in our schools that will directly impact your child. It is essential that you know about these changes and what resources are available to help you support your child.

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In July 2010, the Georgia State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), which are a consistent set of learning expectations for college and career success that have been adopted by 45 states and the District of Columbia. The standards were developed out of partnership between the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association and are not an initiative of the federal government. These newly adopted standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn in K-12 math and language arts.

Once the Georgia State Board of Education adopted the CCSS, the newly adopted curriculum was aligned to include some components of the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS). The final combined curriculum is being referred to in our state as the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS).

While there were many similarities between the initial Georgia Performance Standards and the CCSS, the new CCGPS English / Language Arts standards require more rigor, a stronger focus on reading comprehension, and includes a heavier emphasis on reading informational text and writing. The CCGPS math standards stress conceptual understanding, to make sure students are learning and absorbing the critical information they need to succeed at higher levels. The K-5 math standards provide students with a solid foundation in whole numbers, math operations, fractions and decimals. In middle school, students focus on geometry, algebra and probability and statistics. While high school math standards are geared toward college and career readiness, by helping students develop a depth of understanding and ability to apply mathematics to novel situations, as college students and employees regularly do.

The purpose of adopting the CCSS / CCGPS is not simply to align with other states, but rather to raise the bar in all grades to ensure that our students receive a relevant and rigorous education. The adoption and implementation of the CCSS / CCGPS means that your child will be better prepared to meet the demands of college and/or the work place in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

For additional information please go to <http://www.corestandards.org>. In addition, the National PTA has organized resources to help parents support their child. Information can be found at [www.pta.org/common\\_core\\_state\\_standards.asp](http://www.pta.org/common_core_state_standards.asp). If you have additional questions as to how this might impact your child's education, please feel free to contact your principal.

Respectfully,

Stan Davis  
Associate Superintendent  
Teaching and Learning