DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
EDUCATION ACTIVITY
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MAY 21 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR DODEA PARENTS

SUBJECT: Adoption of the Common Core State Standards

I want to share with you the decision made by the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) to adopt the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics for Kindergarten through 12th grade. DoDEA's adoption of the Common Core State Standards provides us with an opportunity to embark on bold pathways that will position our students for success in college and careers.

The Common Core State Standards initiative developed out of a partnership between the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association. The standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn in K-12 English Language Arts and Mathematics. The Common Core State Standards have been adopted by 46 states, two territories, and the District of Columbia. Consistent standards will now allow DoDEA students to stay on track even when their families are moving between their respective states and/or overseas duty locations. Another purpose for our adoption of the standards is to raise the bar on student expectations and better prepare your children to meet the demands of college and/or the workplace in the 21st century global economy.

Our goal over the next few years is to provide a smooth transition from our current curriculum standards to the Common Core State Standards in all of our classrooms. As we focus on Continuous School Improvement, the Common Core State Standards will be integrated to help create more student-centered learning opportunities and environments in our DoDEA schools.

I will keep you updated about our progress as DoDEA moves forward with implementing the Common Core State Standards. To learn more about these standards and related assessments, please visit http://www.corestandards.org. Also, the National Parent Teacher Association has organized resources for parents in support of their children at www.pta.org/common_core_state_standards.asp. If you have additional questions as to how the Common Core State Standards might impact your child's education, please feel free to contact me.

We will need the help of everyone in the school community – students, parents, teachers, administrators, and military leaders, to make the transition to the Common Core State Standards a success. I know I can count on your support during this important and exciting time.

Marilee Fitzgerald
Director