



## From the Desk of the Superintendent of Schools: Information about Common Core for Parents

### **1. Following a lobbying effort from the statewide teachers' union, many lawmakers have called for a “moratorium” on the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS). What does this mean for our Catholic elementary schools?**

Recently, you might have read that in Governor Cuomo’s 2015 budget he made several changes to the implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards in the State of New York. While changes were made, he did reaffirm his commitment to this initiative for all students in the State. It should further be noted, those recent changes do not impact our students. As referenced in Common Core Fact Sheet #2, these changes include:

- The possible delinking of public school teacher evaluations to test results; and
- The promotion of public school students will not be based on test results.

### **2. What resources are available for parents to learn more about what the Common Core Standards expect from students?**

The NYS Department of Education’s *Toolkit for Parents and Families* (available at <http://www.engageny.org/parent-and-family-resources#toolkit>) provides resources that will help parents and families understand the New York State education reform initiatives and how these changes will help better prepare students for college and careers. We encourage parents and families to use these tools in conjunction with resources and information you receive from your child’s school. The NYS Department of Education will continue to develop and expand this toolkit as they receive feedback from educators and families.

### **3. Do the English Language Arts standards include a required reading list?**

No. The CCLS include an appendix that lists sample texts that demonstrate the level of text complexity appropriate for each grade level and compatible with the learning demands set out in the standards. The exemplars of high quality texts at each grade level are provided as recommendations only – they are NOT mandatory. This ensures teachers have the freedom and flexibility to make their own decisions about what books are appropriate to use, while providing an excellent reference point when selecting their texts.