



May 15, 2014

East Side Union High School District
830 N. Capitol Avenue, San Jose, CA 95133

Office of the Superintendent
(408) 347-5010

Common Core: Integrated Approach will Benefit San Jose Students

Special to the Mercury News

By Chris D. Funk, ESUSHD Superintendent

Posted: May 15, 2014

It is a disturbing fact that American 15-year-olds score 26th in the world on math achievement, according to the Program for International Student Assessment:

"Students in the United States have particular weaknesses in performing mathematics tasks with higher cognitive demands, such as taking real-world situations, translating them into mathematical terms, and interpreting mathematical aspects in real-world problems A successful implementation of the Common Core Standards would yield significant performance gains."

As superintendent of East Side Union High School District, it is my privilege and duty to support the transition to the Common Core State Standards.

East Side serves 24,000 high school students, many of whom are English learners, students living in poverty and students who have been traditionally underserved by public education.

Like all districts in California, we had to make the decision to implement the new Common Core math standards using the traditional name and sequence (Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra II) or the international approach, using the integrated math approach. Both require math teachers to completely shift the standards that were taught in the traditional Algebra and Geometry courses.

East Side Union adopted the international approach because it is to math instruction as the holistic health approach is to medicine.

Full article ([PDF](#))

###

East Side Union High School District Board of Trustees

Van Thi Le • Lan Nguyen • Magdalena Carrasco • Frank Biehl • J. Manuel Herrera
Chris D. Funk, Superintendent