



Controversy Over Common Core Standards

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As educators across the country work to implement Common Core Standards (CCS), designed to standardize tests across the nation, certain issues have arisen, notably the opposition to the growing interest performance-based pay, under which teachers' salaries would be based off their students' performance on CCS tests.

"There are too many variables that would prevent [performance-based pay] from being a fair system. It creates a competitive atmosphere among teachers who should be collaborating and sharing ideas, and it puts too much importance on test scores," English teacher Dorothy Burkhart said. "It's the teaching and learning that matters."

According to Journal Education Next, 19 percent of teachers support performance-based pay, while 79 percent oppose it and 2 percent remain neutral. Meanwhile, 49 percent of the public supports performance-based pay, 39 percent oppose it, and 12 percent remain neutral.

In addition, with the implementation of CCS, curriculum for grades kindergarten to twelfth grade would be much more challenging, since the standards are set at the highest in the nation. So far, some states, such as Alabama,

are considering repealing CCS but have not yet succeeded.

Furthermore, from grades three through eight, only 26 percent of students in New York passed the English Language Arts (ELA) test, while 30 percent passed the math test, according

students passed for each test. The year before, 60 percent of students passed the state mathematics test and 47 percent of student passed the ELA test, according to CBS. A similar occurrence happened in Kentucky, after receiving the scores for the CCS-aligned tests in 2011-2012, when the number of students scoring "proficient" fell by more than a third. However, this was an expected result.

"We expected a decrease, because the standards represent a 13-year progression, and none of our assessed students had experienced more than one-thirteenth of the progression," Director of the Kentucky Department of Education Karen Kidwell said, according to Scholastic. "We view this as an opportunity to understand where we currently are, so we can do what is right to ensure that our students are college-and career-ready when they leave our public schools."

Additionally, the New York Times states that "students with disadvantages struggled as well. On the English exam, 3 percent of nonnative speakers were deemed proficient, and 6 percent of students with disabilities passed." With the CCS tests, no equivalent tests would be made for English language learners or students with disabilities; all students must take the same test.

to the San Francisco Chronicle. In the rest of the state, 31 percent of

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AHS Alumnus Becomes First Latino State Bar President

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News Editor

AHS alumnus Luis J. Rodriguez will be the first Latino and public defender to be inducted as the 89th president of the California State Bar. The inauguration will take place during Oct. in San Jose at the State Bar's Annual Meeting.

Rodriguez is currently the Vice President of the State Bar. He ran unopposed and was elected to a one-year term of presidency by the Board of Trustees on July 19.

"I'm the first Latino and that's something to celebrate, especially in the state of California, but at the same time, it's a stark reminder of how long it takes for certain groups to move up and become part of the leadership of the community," Rodriguez said, according to dailynews.com. "It's an opportunity to show everybody that, given the opportunity, we can provide and give as much as anyone else for the betterment of our community."

In 1994, Rodriguez passed the State Bar and joined the Los An-

geles County Public Defender's Office and has been there ever since, defending underprivileged adults and children charged with crimes.

Rodriguez is no stranger to being a leader. He served as the president of the Mexican-American Bar Association of Los Angeles County, president of the California La Raza Lawyers Association and president of the Latino Public Defenders Association. Rodriguez is also a member of the California State Board of Education and chairman of California's Council on Access and Fairness.

According to The State Bar of California, Rodriguez plans to guarantee that California courts are funded and that the public will be protected from immigration frauds from attorneys. Rodriguez hopes to inspire current AHS students and gives this advice.

"The respect of others and hard work always benefit one as an individual and adds to a better society," Rodriguez said.



PHOTO courtesy of LAURA ERNDE

Introducing AUSD's New Central Kitchen

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Staff Writer

A new central kitchen facility began its operation at the start of this school year to serve Alhambra Unified School District (AUSD) high schools. Alhambra High, Century High, Mark Keppel High, and San Gabriel High will now be provided with meals from a uniform source rather than each having its own production.

According to Vivien Watts, executive director of AUSD's Food and Nutrition Services Department, the district had to make a decision between upgrading all of the existing individual kitchens or investing in a centralized kitchen facility, and eventually settled on the central kitchen. Benefits of this change include "production consistency, better quality control [and] savings on inventories and logistics."

The establishment of the new kitchen will affect AHS in a variety of ways. As there will no longer be an on-site production of food, the cafeteria staff instead

will do simple preparation of shipped meal items. As a result, the "pizza line", the lunch line leading into the cafeteria from the left, has been cut, as AHS no longer produces its own pizza. There are some changes in the

menu as well. For example, the addition of sushi platters was designed to cater to students' tastes.

Future goals of the district's Food and Nutrition Services Department include to

"be able to make more things from scratch, use more fresh fruit and vegetables and to extend [the] catering program," Watts said. The department also plans to extend the central kitchen's service to the rest of the schools in the district.

Despite the department's efforts, AHS' lunch meals are not looked upon particularly well by students. Out of 673 students surveyed, 384 students, a majority, rated the school lunch as a 1 or 2 on a scale of 1-5, while only 56 students gave a 4 or 5.

"I [would] like it if they used fresh ingredient[s] to make a meal for us," said sophomore Leslie La.

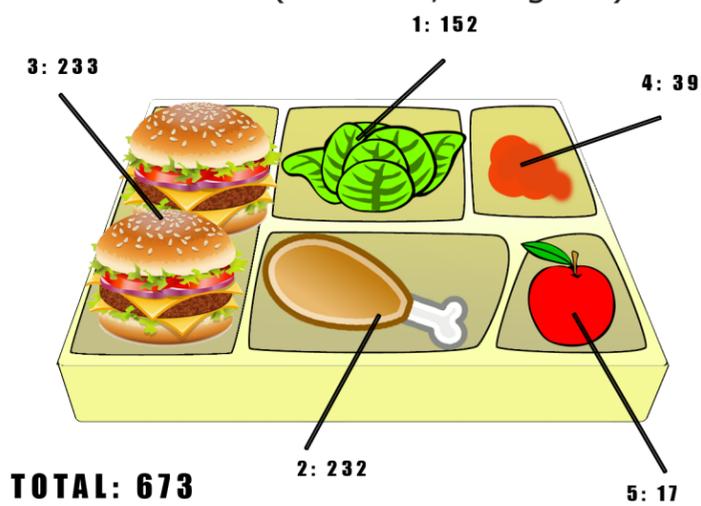
Although the food served by AHS will not be prepared on location anymore, Watts says that the central production kitchen will be able to produce quality foods with its standardized recipes and procedures.

How many times per week do you eat school lunch?



MOOR graphic by GEN THIPATIMA

How high would you rate school lunch? (1=lowest, 5=highest)



MOOR graphic by SIMON ZHAO