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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jefferson Chamber Takes Position on Common Core State Standards

METAIRIE, LA – March 31, 2014 – The Jefferson Chamber Board of Directors voted to support the Common Core State Standards, in order to help prepare all Louisiana students by the end of high school for success in college and careers.

Under new leadership of the school board and superintendent, two years ago the Jefferson Parish Public School System (JPPSS) began implementing Common Core. Since then, positive statistics have skyrocketed. A report by researchers at GCR, Inc. shows that public schools in Jefferson Parish have seen dramatic improvements in nearly every metric. One that is particularly interesting is the fact that performance is trending upward given the vast enrollment, now at 46,100.

“Common Core is a set of standards, which ensures that students are prepared to compete and be successful in a global marketplace,” said **Melinda Bourgeois**, Jefferson Chamber Education Committee Co-Chair. “Jefferson Parish schools have fully implemented the Common Core State Standards, which have played a part in the improvement of the system from a D to a B on the state grading scale. We need to support the JPPSS in this success!”

“The Jefferson Chamber has always supported higher standards for the K-12 education system throughout the entire state, including Jefferson Parish,” said Jefferson Chamber Government Committee Chair, **Michael Palamone**. “During the evaluation of the Common Core Standards, concerns were raised within our organization regarding the effects implementation has had on teachers and students. The Chamber made BESE and DOE aware of these concerns, and changes were made to the implementation process that will span two years, in which the Chamber was satisfied and voted in support of the Common Core Standards.”

For more information on the Jefferson Chamber’s position on Common Core, please visit www.jeffersonchamber.org/common-core-toolkit/.

About the Jefferson Chamber:

The [Jefferson Chamber](http://www.jeffersonchamber.org) is a leading voice for Jefferson Parish’s business community. As a non-profit, membership-driven organization, the Chamber is an effective advocate for small and large businesses at the local, state and federal levels. The Chamber’s mission is to work for the advancement of the business community; to enhance the economic, civic and cultural environment; and to improve the quality of life in Jefferson Parish. The Jefferson Chamber is Four-Star Accredited by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and was awarded the 2013 Chamber of the Year Award by the Louisiana Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives in the Large Chamber Category.

For more information about the Jefferson Chamber, visit www.jeffersonchamber.org, follow on Facebook ([facebook.com/jeffersonchamber](https://www.facebook.com/jeffersonchamber)) and on Twitter ([@jeffersoncoc](https://twitter.com/jeffersoncoc)).

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