

Dear Members of the State Education Committee;

As a member of the teacher evaluation committee in the Stamford Public Schools, I have been involved with a new evaluation plan that meets the State requirements. What I have discovered is this process has presented fear and anxiety among veteran and new teachers that has affected their ability to do the job of educating the children of Stamford. While I was the one responsible for training the staff at the middle school I am assigned, there was no amount of reassurance I could give teachers as to the process. We have a Principle who requires massive amounts of detail while his assistant fluctuates from teacher to teacher what documentation she requires. The entire evaluation process has to be streamlined and consistent across the board in order for it to be effective and fair.

Common Core has been thrust upon us also with no training or appropriate materials. We are told we are flying the plane while we are building it. Something that is unnerving to teachers, students and parents.

I am a teacher of 42 years of Special Needs Students and with I my experience CCSS is a disaster for these students. I love what I do otherwise I would have retired a few years ago, but this year has taught me that my experience and knowledge means nothing. Some consultant with no educational background comes in and tells me what I am doing wrong, and when I ask if they can model for me in front of a real class of students their response is that I am the problem. Hearing that and reading about education reform practices around the country I have come to the determination that CCSS and the new Teacher evaluations systems being developed or currently being field tested is about creating robots out of kids and eliminating creative intelligence of our children for profit.

This is something I will not be apart of! I will not be apart of the help filling the coffers of those like Governor Dan Malloy, Stefan Pryor, Mass Insight, ConnCan, a Better Connecticut, Jamoke Academy, Bill Gates, Rupert Murdoch, Teach for America, Pearson, Walton Foundation or the Broad Foundation. I will retire this coming June and become another to join the growing number of teachers, parents and real educators raising the conversation about what is going on currently in education.

It is my hope that you and your members of the education committee take a serious look and listen to the voices of the teachers and parents of Connecticut and actually do what you were sent to Hartford to do!

"That is to serve the interest of the residents and their children of Connecticut "

A. Ciuffo
Special Education Teacher