

Litchfield Public Schools

35 Plumb Hill Road, PO Box 110, Litchfield, Connecticut 06759-0110

March 10, 2014

Education Committee
Room 3100
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: HB 5078

Dear Chairman Fleischmann, Chairman Stillman, Vice-Chairman McCrory, Vice-Chairman Bye, Ranking Member Ackert, Ranking Member Boucher and members of the Education Committee,

I am writing to adamantly oppose HB 5078, which would place a moratorium on implementation of the Common Core State Standards. This moratorium would be reactive and detrimental to the work of many school districts, including the Litchfield Public Schools. Briefly, we have prepared through a district-wide and focused effort for implementation of the Common Core State Standards. To find the legislature, at this late date, directing us to march backwards is disappointing and frustrating. To require our teachers to now revert to using our pre-CCSS curriculum for the 2014-2015 school year would be ludicrous. To require our students to be tested on the CAPT/CMT after two years of learning through a CCSS-based curriculum would be unfair.

On July 7, 2010, with a unanimous vote, the Connecticut State Board of Education (SBE) adopted new national academic standards known as the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English language arts and mathematics that will establish what Connecticut's public school students should know and be able to do as they progress through Grade K-12. Retrieved March 10, 2014 from [www.http://sde.ct.gov/sde](http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde)

Since the adoption of these standards, almost three years ago, my district has worked diligently and in good faith to incorporate them into our curriculum, and we are satisfied with the results.

The Litchfield Board of Education, our faculty, students and parents have demonstrated support for this effort to strengthen our curriculum and provide an optimal educational experience for every enrolled student. Our professional learning activities have been focused on supporting our teachers in garnering the information and skills needed to deliver the curriculum inclusive of these standards. Our teachers have collaborated in studying the standards through grade level and content area teams, participated in book studies about CCSS implementation, and attended specific training offered through Education Connection. The Town of Litchfield has supported an infusion of technology into our schools, with the intent of positioning our schools to effectively deliver this curriculum and assess student mastery of these standards. In addition, our faculty has devoted time and effort to attentively vet the Smarter Balanced Assessment through participation in practice test administration and test specific training offered through our RESC. To disregard this serious work to now permit time to "study" implementation three years after

adoption by the State Board of Education would be irresponsible and offensive to the teachers, administrators, students, parents, municipal officers and community members who have supported our efforts to implement a necessary deepening and strengthening of our standards for student learning.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah S. Wheeler". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Deborah S. Wheeler, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools