

Raymond Peabody,

Board of Education Member, Enfield CT

Common Core Testimony

Thank you for allowing me time to share Enfield's Board of Education's experience in regards to Common Core (CCSS). Below please find information points for your consideration.

- Cost to date to the town of Enfield related to preparation for the implementation of CCSS

Budget Item	Budget Impact	Comments
Curriculum	\$980,000	Addition staff required to prepare for CCSS curriculum
Evaluation - 7 additional administrative staff to perform <u>teacher evaluations</u>	\$700,000	BOE has received significant pressure by town residents and town council members (both parties) to remove from 2014- 2015 budget
Total CCSS budget impact for 2014-2015	\$1,680,000	Town residences cannot handle a tax increase that includes \$1.68 million dollars' more for unfunded State requirements

- The \$1,680,000 is on top of other State of CT requirements such as CREC tuition payments of \$1,310,000. Which results in over \$2,990,000 of State requirements pushed down to the town of Enfield with absolutely no permanent funding
- Overall the town's grand list has shrunk driving the funds available to support our school system to be drastically reduced
- The results of implementing CCSS could very well force the Enfield BOE and superintendent's office to cut teaching talent, student services and increase class size. Also at jeopardy would be full day kindergarten. Something our town as worked feverishly to implement
- In an effort to focus on education the town council has taken over many non-education related activities and we are running out of areas to reduce costs without negatively impact our ability to deliver the absolute best possible education experience for our students
- In recent weeks, legislators in Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, and South Dakota and others are working to pedal back their state's involvement with CCSS
- As one State Senator put it "One of the founding principles of American education is that states and **local** citizens will determine how their schools are going to run and what will be taught in **each local entity**. The Common Core Standards movement is an attempt to circumvent this long-standing tradition of American education". Please allow us to live up this principle
- The town of Enfield just does not have the short and long term funding for CCSS. We are running out of tax dollars
- We are simply asking to take into account the financial impact of your committee's mandates before you push them down on our communities
- We simply cannot afford CCSS and other State unfunded requirements