

I am a fourth grade teacher in Ridgefield CT. I was teacher of the year two years ago. I have 17 years under my belt and I have never seen anything like what I am seeing now. The Common Core is a set of standards devised in secrecy by a pair of agencies completely disconnected from anything to do with teaching. The members swore a confidentiality oath and were passed by CT (thereby bypassing the already adopted and voted on in the public domain) without any genuine input from administrators, teachers, parents, etc. This was done under threat of losing Race to the Top money. A recently released study from MIT showed that increased emphasis on standardized test scores will NOT develop critical thinking. It will only add undue stress and show who is a good test-taker. The state plans to spend a million dollars on a public relations campaign selling this rubbish. The price being paid in this state goes well beyond a dollar figure. Teachers are more stressed and burned out and discouraged than ever. They are being reduced to data gathering, test pushing administrators of increasingly sterile and soulless assembly line instruction models meant to provide the increase in essentially irrelevant test scores. Many are leaving because this program has rendered true teaching an unrecognizable entity in this state. Please, in the interest of preserving the Constitution of CT, the sanity of the educational program and the genuine well-being and truly comprehensive education of CT children dispense with the odious Common Core and do it as soon as possible. The horrendous amounts of money being devoted to peddling this program would reap 100 times the benefit if it was spent on smaller classrooms and providing support for teachers and districts that focus more on creative wonder and inquiry than on mindless inch deep regurgitation in pursuit of a one-dimensional notion of education. Thank you. Mark Reinders