

Scott Minnick  
28 South Main Street  
East Hampton, CT  
860-508-1813

[minnicks@glastonburyus.org](mailto:minnicks@glastonburyus.org)

RE: LEGISLATION OF THE COMMON CORE RELATING TO SBAC AND  
TEACHER EVALUATION

Dear Members of the Education Committee:

My name is Scott Minnick. As a teacher, board of education member, CEA member, and parent of two school children, I have serious concerns regarding the "Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium" test and Connecticut's new teacher evaluation system as it relates to the CCSS. Speaking in broad terms, the current laws are a detriment to our students' education in some significant ways:

Testing over education – because the technology of today's schools cannot allow all students to take test simultaneously, there are enormous logistical problems resulting in sustained disruptions and significant amounts of time away from classes for both testing and practice.

Data over teaching: Forcing education to conform to a business model is detrimental to the education of our students. Students should not be equated with profits and teachers should not be forced to treat students as "data points" for the purpose of determining their own worth as educators. Imposing this for-profit monopoly on our non-profit town organizations is not sustainable economically nor educationally.

The State's "flexibility waiver" is a transparent farce. Clearly, there are hidden intentions in this long-term battle plan against teachers and this temporary cease fire is fooling nobody.

Moreover, this action is making many ponder the true end game:

- Merit pay through the back door by coupling irrelevant and biased data with teacher evaluations;
- Destabilization of State teacher unions by creating a rift among teachers who have the rigorous standardized SBAC tests verses those who do not;

This dehumanization of education will continue to tax and demoralize educators and administrators to the detriment of student education – the exact opposite of the stated intentions of the "year of education". You have put the future of our children in their formative years at risk. Please, re-think your strategy. Make teachers your ally not your target in our shared quest to improve the experience and effectiveness of education in Connecticut.