

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a resident of Monroe, CT and a registered voter. I am very concerned about common core and it's one size fits all approach.

Here in Monroe we have adopted the NY Common Core curriculum. This curriculum is failing in NY and we need to wake up and stop making the same mistake here:

<http://www.nystateofpolitics.com/2014/01/nysut-will-see-no-confidence-vote-on-king/>

While teachers are forced to 'teach to the test' here, I am very concerned about the lessons and material that are NOT being taught because of so much time wasted on preparing kids for this test. One of the teachers in our district states, "School is no longer about learning and creating lifelong learners. School has become a series of tests and assessments for children and teachers. Teachers spend more time on data collection and reporting than they do on planning. Kids take so many tests, it is impossible to plan instruction accordingly. By the time the tests are corrected and analyzed, it is time for another assessment". This is not what I want for my child or any child and I sincerely hope that our elected representatives agree. We need to foster a love of learning in the children. That is why passionate teachers want to be become teachers and that is what they are capable of doing when they are given the time and autonomy to be creative educators. They recognize that each child is different and they teach children in ways that resonate and are meaningful to them. Common Core does not allow for this. By treating all children, all classes and all teachers the same, common core fails to recognize the clear reality that we are all unique individuals, we all learn differently and at different rates. Some people excel in some areas and some people excel in other areas. We are NOT ALL THE SAME and teaching to the middle will ensure that mid level is all we will ever achieve. If we do not do something to stop common core now we will lose quality teachers. This robotic curriculum is not why they became teachers. Our good teachers will leave the profession and future teachers will be discouraged from entering the profession. I am opting my children out of the SBAC testing and ironically, my children could probably do pretty well on the test. I am opting out because my concern goes beyond my own children. I am concerned for ALL of our children and for the future of our country if our children are the products of a common core curriculum.

Thank you for this opportunity and I hope the Educational committee and the State Board of Education will take a closer look at the Common Core standards. We do not want the Common Core Standards and I ask you to please Opt out of the Standards all together.

Sincerely,
Shannon Reilly Monaco