

For the CT Legislature Education Committee hearing on Wednesday, March 12, 2014.

Dear members of the Education Committee -

I am a veteran high school teacher in East Hampton, CT. I would like to thank the legislators who attended CEA's Regional Teacher Meetings and thank the Governor and the State Board of Education for allowing flexibility in the implementation of the Evaluation model. Now I would ask that this committee and the legislature as a whole consider fixing some of the problems that have come up with the Common Core roll out and the associated SBAC testing. This testing is incredibly disruptive to the education process, much more so than CAPT was. It ties up computer labs, the media center, and other areas using technology. It also fragments classes due to the inability to test all students at once. Teachers and students need time to adjust to these changes. It has been very stressful for both groups.

Please have the new CCSS Working Group meet with teachers as well as representatives from groups of parents, students and BOE members and have them start as soon as possible. Our students deserve better than we have given them this year. Every day that we experiment with new standards and tests is a day of learning that they cannot get back. Teachers are the experts in education and our input should be at the center of developing and implementing standards and testing. All of us support rigorous standards for our students and for ourselves. We just want to be included in the process and this year quite frankly until recently it seemed as though we were on the outside looking in with nobody paying any attention to ours collective years of experience and training.

Thank you.

Steve Archibald
East Hampton High School