

To whom it may concern,

My name is Brian Cullagh and I am an 8th grade English teacher at Broadview Middle School in Danbury. The implementation of the Common Core Standards has created a stressful and, at times, chaotic environment for myself and my students.

All of the curriculum changes that have been made to our school district have been done in haste. More requirements of how to teach and assess our students are being imposed on us, and there has been little to no clear communication from the state on how these changes should look when placed in a classroom setting. We have been told, continuously, to be patient or "it" will make more sense with time? Without a clear and well-thought out plan from the state, our administrators are unclear with their directions, which leads to confused teachers, students and parents. Instead of drowning us with a tidal wave of changes, why not take the time to logically think through what will work best for all parties and implement these changes in a logical manner. I ask that you put yourselves in the position of a student who is being told that we have their best interest in mind when the message that they are being told is unclear. Our current students should not be made to suffer because the current plan was not properly devised. How is this helping their future?

Please take the time to discuss the ramifications the Common Core has had on all of us, and to make any necessary changes that will improve the quality of education for our children.

Sincerely,

Brian Cullagh