

My name is Gus Cantavero Jr. and I am a resident of Greenwich, CT. I would like to voice my opinion that I vehemently oppose the implementation of any common core guidelines or curriculum into public schools of Connecticut. I have been following the coverage, information and research being revealed by frustrated parents and students across the country and I am disgusted and disappointed that such a curriculum has even reached the point of being seriously considered as a foundation for our state's education. There is a very good reason why homeschooling has been gaining ground across the nation. That reason is that parents feel alienated and ignored by schools when it comes to education. As an example, Common core's ludicrous approach to math will further distance parents from taking an active role in their kids education since it doesn't make sense to anyone, least of all parents and students.

Common Core removes local control from educational standards which is already a hair's breadth away from being untouchable without organizing protests and petitions. Government's natural state is towards consolidation and Common Core is the natural next step towards centralization. When education is controlled from a centrally dictated mandate, municipalities cannot adjust based on local needs.

I remember very recently that the hot topic around education was the controversy surrounding the implementation of the IB program which forces more and more busy work onto kids already stressed for time. Yet, results which can be measured by our nation's competitiveness for skilled jobs continues to drop. We keep spending more and more money on so-called education reforms revolving around ideas of new and revolutionary programs. But we continue to ignore the average students who can't afford, don't want to go to college, or just don't know what they want to do. There is hardly a technical school to be found in Connecticut, so instead of funding and reform, why don't we take a step back and provide skilled job training for the kids who need it? Let's not waste time, effort and money re-training teachers to implement a useless and confounding curriculum like Common Core and add more technical training to attract good employment to Connecticut. One of the big reasons young people leave Connecticut in alarming numbers is because there is nothing here for them. We have enough lawyers and finance professionals to populate another planet, but we have to import engineers from India.

As long as the government continues to centralize its power and dictate the programs from distant lands, you will continue to see homeschooling and other alternative education methods skyrocket. And those kids will only continue to outperform public school students by wider and wider margins while kids beat their heads on their desks and curse their common core math homework.

Sincerely,
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