

To the Connecticut State Legislature:

As the mother of a brilliant but highly eccentric 13 boy afflicted with Aspergers Syndrome I cannot express strongly enough my utter disdain for the “teaching to the test” pedagogy. This process has proven itself completely ineffective as an indicator of my son’s ability. Currently he is scoring below basic in math and low in English. Yet this boy was able to produce a five minute documentary on the very first filmmaker speaking fluidly into the camera with well organized thought and a professional presence. He has more projects in the works.

The problems with testing goes beyond the failure to document his true intelligence. For this emotionally delicate special needs child the tests are traumatic. During the test he took last month he was so stressed out his eyes blurred and all he could do was guess. By the time he got home he went straight to bed with a terrible backache. I fail to see how this excessive testing has any demonstrable benefit for my son at all. In fact this process has successfully turned this naturally curious child who loves to read and study history off of school. What a pity so much valuable teaching time has to be lost to standardized testing.

Sadly, the Common Core Curriculum is only going to make matters worse. I met with his principal at Hillcrest Middle School in Trumbull to show him how intelligent my son really is despite his horrible test scores and to ask that he be opted out of the CC tests. My first request was denied and no response has been given for a subsequent submitted of an opt out letter.

Furthermore, I recognize there are many serious issues with Common Core. The Standards Committee was filled with representatives from the testing companies positioned to make a fortune off the backs of our children. In fact, this whole process represents a huge transfer of wealth from the taxpayers to the testing companies. Meanwhile the state legislatures caved without really studying the process just to get the federal tax dollars waved in front of their faces. I am mortified as well by the curriculum itself with overly political content and a significantly reduced focus on literature. Finally I am deeply concerned about the unconstitutional data mining of families.

As a mother, as an art professor coming from a family with five generations of teachers and as a tax payer I would like to remind the state legislature that they rule by the “Consent of the People”. In this case I withdrawal my consent for the government to inflict emotional abuse on my child with the a terrible curriculum and excessive counter productive testing.

Judith de Graffenried
Trumbull, CT