

March 11,2014

Dear General Assembly,

I am pleased to see that action is being taken to visit some of the questions and concerns that parents and educators have had, and continue to have over the implementation of CCSS and the SBAC tests and teacher evaluations. I would like to thank you for your consideration.

The Common Core is one of the most comprehensive attempts to control the details of education that the federal government has ever made. The Common Core lets federal bureaucrats and private organizations decide what children should learn and when they should learn it, robbing parents, teachers, and local school districts of this important decision.

What happened to the constitution when all of this was coming about? It is our local district that holds most of the power to make decisions on curriculum, yet somehow it seems they are being made to feel that they have no rights.

I am especially concerned with the federal government's role in pushing the Common Core. Federal law prohibits the Department of Education from setting specific content standards, but using the Race to the Top program, the federal government has enticed many states to adopt the Common Core and develop curriculum and assessments aligned to the Common Core. Furthermore, I am disturbed by the efforts of the Department of Education and the Department of Labor—in connection with the Common Core—to begin collecting large amount of personal information on students from their preschool years through their entry into the workforce. This is extremely dangerous for the privacy of American schoolchildren and goes against MY inalienable right as a parent to protect my children from harm.

Aside from that, I feel that the material in the common core is not age appropriate and I see children struggling who once did well in school, and children who did not do so well giving up and disliking school. Also, children with special needs are an area of great concern in this "one-size-fits-all" ideology. I have not seen any accommodations in the curriculum or testing for them. Furthermore, I was given an opportunity to take a sample 3rd grade SBAC test and there was material on it that my child has not even covered yet.

I do understand that our education system needs to be looked at and changed for the better- BUT it should be done by people who are relevant and understanding of the needs of children at grade level and familiarity with what goes on in a classroom and not some big wigs out to make money off of our children. I implore you to repeal this altogether and give the job of creating an appropriate and challenging curriculum and back to the localities and educators as it is written in the statutes.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to have a voice in this.

Regards,

Kim S. Carrington

Parent of 2 in the Region 14 school district

96 Sherman Hill Rd

Woodbury, CT 06798