

To whom it may concern,

I live in Coventry, CT and our town has elected to administer the SBAC field tests this spring. I have attended presentations from our town's Director of Curriculum, Board of Education meetings, and our state representative's forum on Common Core. I feel that we are not ready as a state to go forward with these tests. I understand we were aware about the new testing four years ago, but why would we continue to move forward with so many glitches in the system? Wouldn't it be better to roll it out successfully instead of just rolling it out on time? These tests are very tedious and require students to be computer savvy. Questions are marked wrong if the process of coming up with the answer is not what the test makers are looking for, even though the answer itself is right. What do you think this does to the students? They will feel inadequate and unintelligent, but thankfully we will have the field test results to better the tests for the future.

Letters were sent home from our town's principals stating "To comply with federal and state statute, participation in the Field Test is required." I am very aware that individual opting out of the tests is an option, but many people may not be aware of this. It's ironic that schools across the state, including Coventry schools, brag about being in a bully-free zone or environment, so what do you call this?

Please stop implementing SBAC testing until teachers and administrators can honestly say it is acceptable. Please think about the students who once liked school, who now dread it.

Thank you.

Margie Stickles

Coventry, CT