

105 Sheldon Lane

Litchfield, CT 06759

March 10, 2014

Dear Connecticut State Legislators:

I am writing to urge the Connecticut Legislators to take a step back and take time to re-evaluate the Common Core State Standards initiation into our State.

With the advent of Race to the Top, equity as the driving principle of federal aid has been abandoned. In 1965, the initiation of federal aid to local school districts had been in the form of formula grants based on the proportion of students who were in need. Suddenly with the initiation of Race to the Top, we are faced with a competition among the states. Now in order to receive federal funds, states are obligated to incorporate CCSS, perform high-stakes student testing with test scores that ultimately affect teacher evaluations. In addition to the above, states are also obligated to pay for these assessments and the materials that come with it. More costly unfunded mandates that local school districts in Connecticut have to struggle with!

Outside of the funding issues, my chief concern is with our children. Reading information from counterparts across the country, I am disturbed that the Common Core State Standards were never field tested, never vetted locally. They were not created based on how children learn, grow or develop. They have no basis in

educational or brain research. They can offer no evidence of efficacy.

Let us take a lesson from Massachusetts, a noted leader in high quality state educational standards and student achievement. Massachusetts is no longer convinced that Common Core State Standards is "better" than their standards. Massachusetts recently decided to slow implementation and will be piloting Common Core in 2015.

School reform must be built on hope, encouragement, inspiration, trust, on belief in the dignity of the human person, on support and mutual respect. Fear, threats, compulsion, devotion to only data and a regime of punishment and blame are the recipe for another episode of education reform failure.

Connecticut legislators take your time. Listen to the educational professionals who are concerned with Common Core State Standards. Let us implement education reform with children in mind.

Elizabeth L. Fabbri

Parent, Litchfield Board of Education