

Dear Education Committee Members,

I am a Connecticut public school teacher with over 15 years of teaching experience. In all these years, I have never seen my colleagues so confused, stressed and afraid for the future of their students. I used to hear rumors that those who implement educational changes were too far removed from the realities of the classroom and students' developmental learning capabilities to understand the changes needed. It was said that the "change makers" turned solely to research and data and ignored the experience and advice offered by professionals who work with and for our nation's children each and every day. I have come to the sad realization these rumors are true. The Common Core must be revisited with a team of teachers present; to implement the changes without piloting is unheard of. Please revisit the new teacher evaluation process and stop requiring unnecessary mounds of paperwork and data. This amount of work is demeaning and it takes time away from planning learning activities and teaching. Please ask for and listen to those teachers who are willing to share their experience and expertise in paving the way to much-needed educational reform. On one hand we are told we are professionals and on the other we are treated like we are entirely inept. Please embrace your nation's other valuable resources, your teachers, and let us work together to ensure that today's students grow to become intellectually prepared and productive members of our society.

Sincerely,

Veronica Strickland