

My name is Wanda Oprica and I am a resident of Avon. I am a librarian at a public library, a graduate of Vassar College, and have a Master's degree from Southern in Library Science. I am also a parent of five children, four of which are currently in the public school system. I am an informed citizen and today speak to you regarding HB5078. I suggest that the implementation of the Common Core State Standards in Connecticut be permanently delayed. Connecticut should opt out of the Common Core.

Our school system of Avon is an early indicator that the Common Core is not effective for children's development. At a recent PTO meeting discussing the Common Core, many parents felt their children were either bored, frustrated, confused, or a combination of all three. The Common Core is not properly aligned with child development or the variations within that development.

The Common Core's efficacy was never tested and not designed by educators. Our children are being used as guinea pigs. We were in a school system that was proven to be working through numerous distinctions, high scores, college readiness, and college acceptance rates. Instead of modeling the Common Core after school systems like ours or other high performing school districts, the standards have been lowered. Now all schools have the same lower standards. Wouldn't it be better to at the very least bring the standards up to those of high performing school districts or states? Fix those schools that are broken. Do not break all the schools.

Control needs to go back to the local school systems so that they can address the needs of the local communities and individual learners. The educational freedom of communities needs to be intact so that the educators, teachers, and parents have a say in how their children learn, allowing for the needs of the children to best be served.

It is our responsibility to teach our children to their fullest potential and achieve to their highest level. There is no incentive in the Common Core to teach beyond standards. This limits children in their learning, development, and ultimately their success.

One approach does not fit all. Thus especially children at both ends of the spectrum suffer under the Common Core Standards. There are clearly different types of learners. Learners learn at different paces, in diverse ways, and are able to master varying amounts of material. Standards need to accommodate every type of learner and maximize each child's potential. In order for children to reach this success, standards need to be flexible and accommodating. Not rigid, as are the Common Core Standards. The Common Core Standards stand in opposition to the needs of our children. To quote Katharine Beals (a lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education and an adjunct professor at the Drexel University School of Education), "The purported goal of the Common Core is success for all students. But success for all requires openness towards cognitive diversity, and isn't so easily standardized."

Connecticut must opt out of the Common Core Standards. Thank you for your time and consideration on this extremely important matter.