

Dear Members of the Education Committee:

The implementation of the new Teacher Evaluation, Common Core, and SBAC testing has been an absolute mess. Problems with the piloting of the "SEED" program last year were totally ignored and unrealistic expectations and assumptions were made into law. Teachers are spending late nights and weekends completing forms that have minimal purpose instead of preparing the new lessons needed to try to catch students up with the new Common Core State Standards. Administrators were already scrambling to keep up with mandated IEP meetings, and now have dozens of hours more of observations, meetings reports to prepare. Students don't know what's hit them because the SBAC tests haven't happened yet. Making test-taking efficient by putting it on computers is a fine theory, but in practice it means that the 1100 students in my school have to be circulated through the 100 computers we have available over a period of four weeks. We have had to scavenge space in our Science Lab for 25 computers, (our school only has three computer labs suitable for SBAC test monitoring otherwise) so that the Science Lab is out of commission for a month as well as the three computer labs. Our administrators estimate that the testing will take each student approximately five hours. That is what has been scheduled, in any case. This is not an efficient use of materials, manpower, or equipment. A business would not be run this way. Why is this being foisted upon teachers?

Sincerely,
Paul S. Kueffner

Paul Kueffner
French Teacher
Cider Mill School
240 School Rd
Wilton CT 06897