

Cuomo's Ed Forum
Pace University

Good afternoon, I am here on behalf of my students, their parents, and my ~~daughter~~ little girl who will enter ~~public school~~ kindergarten next year.

Good afternoon. My name is Anthony Cardinale. I am a third grade teacher in the Carmel Central School District and the proud father of a little girl who will enter kindergarten next year.

Governor Cuomo, the Board of Regents, and every state representative who voted to approve our current year's budget have really made a mess of things. I hold everyone equally responsible for the harm being done to our children. students.

As a teacher and a parent, I am demanding three simple things: developmentally appropriate standards, developmentally appropriate exams, and complete transparency.

First off, experts in child development must examine every Common Core learning standard at every grade level. Even if you believe the Governors' Association put together the Common Core without the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates, governors are not educators. That's why New York's constitution gives the governor no authority over the state education department.

Second, the passages and questions on New York's Common Core exams are not age appropriate. This is not an opinion. This is a fact. The Grey Hare written by Leo Tolstoy is listed on the EngageNY website as a sample passage for third grade. It is written on a seventh grade level. Based on my 13 years of experience in the classroom, I can tell you many of the passages on the third grade exam were just as difficult. With reading passages this inappropriate, the entire test becomes invalid.

Testifier #1

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Parents and educators will not be fooled. Just because Pearson has been replaced, doesn't mean ~~that~~ the exams will be any more appropriate. That is why I am also demanding complete transparency. Every single passage and test question placed in front of a student on test days must be made available to the public after the exam period has ended. Not half the questions... all of them.

The sad truth is that very few people have faith that another one of the governor's education commissions, that happens to be led by a banker and not an educator, is going to have the manpower to properly handle the massive task at hand or be able to steer the governor away from his destructive agenda. Complete transparency is the only way parents and educators can verify that real change has taken place.

I whole-heartedly support the ^{parents of the} 240,000 ~~parents whose children~~ ^{who} refused state testing this year. There is no way I will ever subject my daughter to New York's developmentally inappropriate exams that twist curriculum and put our neediest students further at risk. When the time comes, I will refuse state testing on my daughter's behalf, and as a private citizen, I will continue to encourage others to do the same until real change has been made.

~~The parents of approximately 240,000 students have spoken. Commissioner Elia has stated that teacher support of the opt-out movement is unethical. I would agree that educators should not persuade the students in their classroom to refuse state testing. However, after the school day has ended, when educators are in their own communities as private citizens, they will continue to speak out against the injustice being done to our children. Supporting the opt-out movement is not unethical. Remaining silent is.~~