

Gordon Daniels, Administrator, Franklin Central School

My name is Gordon Daniels. I am the Superintendent for Franklin Central School in Franklin, New York. We have a student population of 285 Pr-Kindergarten through twelfth grade. I have had the privileged of serving Franklin now for ten years as the Superintendent. Prior to that I served sixteen years as building Principal at Greene Central School. This is my forty-first year in education and I am proud of all the opportunities and success I have been a part of.

My reason for speaking is my belief in the Common Core Learning standards. To believe that as a nation we don't need a national curriculum is absurd. We are such a mobile society that we need to take steps to ensure that as families relocate, their children need to have access to grade level standards. A student leaving New York as a tenth grader must not be reduced to a ninth grader in Arizona because as a nation we can't decide on common standards across our country. These high standards that are consistent across states provides teachers, parents and students with a clear set of expectations to ensure that all students have the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in college, career and life once they graduate from high school regardless of where they live.

The Common Core was developed by building on the best state standards in the United States; examining the expectations of other high performing countries and carefully studying the research available. Evidence-based standards were developed in consultation with teachers and parents across the country.

The Common Core State Standards are beginning to make a difference - students and teachers are beginning to see better results, they are learning more about the modules and how to use them - we can not afford to stop and try something new again.

Teacher evaluation should not be tied to the Common Core State Standards. The standards and the increased rigor they demand will help all our students. Concepts like renewable tenure need to be examined and discussed to ensure that our students have the best teachers and that those who have lost their passion for teaching are not allowed to continue.

Find a new more effective and host way to fight tenure - let the Common Core State Standards do what they were intended to do - raise expectations and rigor to better prepare our students for college and career readiness.