

Tara Molloy-Grocki, Parent

"New York State already had great standards. We didn't need Common Core State Standards. What we needed was the money that was supposedly attached to Race to the Top. Race to the Top is the worst education policy in my 20+ year career. Not only did we not get the money that was promised, we received the most harmful education reform to our students and teachers.

Expecting kindergarteners to write complete sentences, no less having a capital letter at the beginning of each sentence, clearly shows that whoever wrote the standard has no understanding of early childhood development. Forcing children to write when they are not ready has had a huge negative impact. Children are not forming letters correctly and penmanship has seriously suffered. Poor pencil grip creates writing fatigue and therefore the children will have difficulty writing. All best practice shows that our early learners need time to talk and explore. Giving our early learners time to practice writing their name and using scissors and having time to color and play are instrumental skills they need to develop in order to do the higher level work in later grades. Our early learners need time to develop these skills. Common Core is not allowing our early learners time to develop these essential skills.

It's confusing to me when I hear that there is a chance to revise Common Core. My understanding is that Common Core State Standards are copyrighted and cannot be revised. The only way to fix Common Core is to scrap them! Let's pilot the "lost standards" that were written by the teachers from New York State. Reconvene the group of educators who developed those standards and let them finish their work. I have attached the "lost standards" below.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Molloy-Grocki"