

Marissa Nolan, Parent

My son is only in first grade, so I am not familiar with the testing aspects of the common core standards that have upset so many members of my community. It is my understanding that the testing is excessive and I appreciate the task force in that regard. I think the implementation of the standards was frustrating to most parents especially those with children who were older and had to learn new concepts. I am grateful my son has started in kindergarten with the standards and I actually like the math concepts. While they are a bit foreign to me, I am learning alongside him and appreciate the intention to build math fluency. The main issue I have with the math workbooks etc is the way they ask the questions, it can be very confusing and the developers should improve upon clarity in their questions. I also appreciate the level of critical thinking that the standards are intended to achieve. Critical thinking is a skill that is invaluable and I am happy that we have finally recognized this. When the time comes our children will have to compete on a global level and I support changes to help our children become competitive. In summary, I support the standards but not increased testing, unclear learning materials, age inappropriate expectations or teaching to a test. Please increase the support and education of our schools, teachers and parents.