

Martin A. Sweeney, Board of Education

"Common Core is a fine set of learning standards, but the botched way they were rolled out (not sequentially by grade level, starting with K, over several years and with APPR attached and without adequate professional development) means that the lay person on the street and parents think "Common Core" means the whole set of reforms. They have a negative perception and wish to throw the baby out with the bath water. As long as student assessments are used to evaluate teacher performance, the Opt-Out Movement will persist and hinder the collection of meaningful data. I am not sure how the damage can be undone. Lesson to be learned: Children should not be used as political footballs."