

Christy Bezruczyk, Parent

I have read and researched Common Core (CC) since 2010 and I have seen the impact of CC in my home since 2013. As a mother, taxpayer and active community member, I have some very serious concerns surrounding CC and it's not as simple as an implementation problem or a standards and assessment problem. I have traced the CC back to where it began and have the evidence that it was implemented through the National Governor's Association and Chief Council of Chief State School Officers without it even being fully developed. We do not want the federal government in our schools. There s big money behind CC, we are all well aware of that. We do not want to continue with more unfunded mandates and corporations to continue to profit of the backs of our kids and schools. We just spent 44 million on Queststar! Have you read how they "reimagine" the classroom? Take a look and when educators and community members see this, they will be outraged! I have also read and reviewed the 2005 NYS "Lost" Learning Standards which were developed by EDUCATORS. They were thrown out when CC entered our schools. This is a travesty and the only solution to "reboot" CC is to give CC the boot and to stop it now. The lost NYS learning standards, which are far superior to CC are NOT copyrighted, so they can be tweaked by EDUCATORS. We, the people of NYS, are not interested in continuing to support big business profiting of the backs of our children, we are also not interested in giving another 8 years of the experimental plan! Our children will never get these years back. I demand that CC be terminated, APPR be severed from testing and the testing be replaced with 4th and 8th grade assessments. Assessments that can be SEEN and used for DIAGNOSTIC purposes - not shielded in secrecy. Our current assessments are developmentally inappropriate, you decide on the cut score AFTER all of the tests are graded and then 6 months later the teacher and school are allowed to see 50% of an annotated version - this is not education, this is disgusting and it will not be tolerated.

The teaching profession is in shambles because of CC, there is a national teacher shortage, SUNY Plattsburgh has seen a 47% decrease in enrollment in their teacher education program. Trust our educators to do their job.

Finally, I must formally request that Mr. Richard Parsons step down as the leader of the Common Core Task Force. I recognize that his role is to protect big business and I am here to protect and speak for the children. Mr. Parsons has zero educational experience to be leading this Task Force and it is a slap in the face that he is representing the millions of children in our NYS schools. Please, sir, step down for the sake of our children and admit that your background is not suited to making these critical educational decisions for our kids. Our schools are funded by our tax dollars and my voice shall be heard. Could you imagine me, a special education teacher, making decisions about your company. I wouldn't want to, nor would I be qualified to do so...please step down and let the educators handle this. We do NOT want big business making critical decisions about our PUBLIC schools.