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"I am a SPED teacher and have to deal with the injustice served to students with disabilities. The shift implemented has taken no account to the variety of needs and abilities that make each person unique. It has in fact done the opposite created people who feel defeated and schools that care more for the "graduation rate" than what is best for the students. Social and behavioral issues are increasingly becoming a huge hurdle in school success and instead of addressing these issues and trying to implement supports, students who already feel inferior are expected to reach goals that are in place ignoring individual shortcomings.

Shame, on the "people in the know." Shame on wasting money that could actually be put to good use in schools by providing districts with more resources to deal with various behaviors presented in this day and age. Family and support systems have changed, and not necessarily for the better and instead of encouraging schools to create various curriculums and support systems to assist students in developing the best they can, schools are strangled with bureaucratic rhetoric that clearly waste time as well as money and in addition also diminish the overall success of the educational system. Stop trying to cookie cutter children(students) and allow the individuals that can create sound and research based educational guidelines be the voice. Be honest and make sure school districts are set up to educate all students regardless of needs and shortcomings and not make schools a pawn in the governmental arena. Stop hurting students by making everyone try to fit a certain achievement level and create initiatives that would allow most if not all achieve at their level and feel that they can contribute to society instead of feeling helpless and useless.

I would hope that parents of various types of students put forth their thoughts and share how No Child Left Behind coupled with the Common Core initiative has hurt academic progress along with governmental interference. Teachers should be allowed to teach, data is an important tool, however data is not an ultimate determining factor on progress or the lack of, it all depends on how the data is interpreted. I have no problem with Common Core and establishing consistent expectations, what is the problem is the dictatorship on how the Common Core initiatives are being made to be a robotic script. This also eliminates free speech and individual interpretation if not creativity and joy in learning.

One last note, it is also a sad statement that children who are not developmentally ready to undergo extensive learning are being made to endure unreasonable expectations. Shame on the Governor for allowing government and companies make money off of our children, someone is getting rich over this debilitating educational system and it certainly is not the children. There is more stress and anxiety being seen in earlier grades than has been acknowledged in previous years. Please allow a shift in the focus to truly be on the students,

based on academic research and information from various educational personnel in concert with community leaders and family members and allow schools to be back in charge to create an academic community that will encourage all students and not just the ones that fit in a box."