

**Nina Doster, Parent**

I have a son and a daughter in public elementary schools.

I am here today because I think the education system has failed my kids, and I want that to stop.

I have gone through a lot to make sure my children are taught by effective teachers.

I have been vocal but I don't feel that my voice has always been heard.

I see how loud suburban parents have been about how they feel about the Common Core, and I'm frustrated because it feels like when they speak up, politicians drop everything and do what they say.

But what about my kids? What about the kids in our community?

We want high standards. We want our children to be able to compete and succeed.

Why aren't our voices heard? Our kids matter, too.

I wish the parents who are against the Common Core could come to my neighborhood, walk through the halls of our schools, and then say we don't deserve high standards.

The Common Core is a lifeline for communities like ours.

The Common Core gives us hope that our kids will get the quality education they need.

I am here because I support high standards and I want my kids to have the opportunity to go to college and succeed in school and beyond.

Thank You.