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"Common core is absolutely necessary, without dilution. The problem is in its introduction. It should be phased in, lower grades first. Teachers, particularly in the lower grades need to learn mathematics, a subject in which most are sorely deficient. High school teachers must not be allowed to teach math, regardless of situation, unless they have a STEM subject degree.

The tests must count for the students. If the students do not care then the results are meaningless.

No student should be able to "opt-out" and be promoted.

Teachers assessments must include, at 30% minimum, the results of the tests in their evaluations. Averaging over 2 or 3 years will give a clear picture of competence.

The common core standards must be specific as the topics to be presented at each grade level and referenced to a specific text. No generalities. Instructional deviations permitted provided the topics are covered OVER THE SEMESTER. Good teachers will get there and those are the ones we want.

Dismissal of ineffective teachers must be quick, no more of this sitting around for years.

Common core provides comparison of schools, districts, national trends, and yes teacher effectiveness. It is more than necessary and must not be permitted to be discarded, its testing diluted, in the face of self-serving opposition by teachers and administrators. The purpose of education is to educate and that can only be done effectively if, when things go wrong as they have for so many years, they are changed.

Finally, social promotion must end."