

Governor's Task Force

November 10, 2015

Honestly I am a bit confused as to why we are all here at another forum discussing public education.

Since the inception of Common Core, I have written numerous letters, made hundreds of phone calls, met with my Assemblyman, and worked on a NYSUT task force examining this very topic. I hold a draft that is thorough and clearly outlines what you need to do. Even more, it is based on research, teacher and parent input and data compiled from surveys and conversations with other Common Core states.

When will you listen?

Parents, teachers and students have been trying to get you to listen since the origin of this ineffective roll-out. Yet here we are, AGAIN because we care enough to keep repeating our message and hoping that finally it won't fall on deaf ears. Since the beginning, the Common Core agenda was rapidly pushed through with little input from the stakeholders and now we are paying the price. It has been a high cost; we have frustrated children, burned out teachers, angered parents and you have created a climate of mistrust and animosity within school districts. When will you listen?

I know that I am only supposed to address Common Core, but since NYSED and NY state lumped this whole "acronymed" mess together, it is now impossible to separate the CC from the APPR and from HST. Unlike anything previously chosen as the latest fad in education, many teachers can no longer just ride out this wave even though some have attempted to doggie paddle through the rancid mire of messy modules, the standardized slime of state tests and the constantly changing cut scores. Teachers have always been resilient and flexible but the final straw was tying our livelihoods to this debacle.

Make no mistake that as dedicated professionals, we will continue to do what is best for our kids despite

government interference due to corporate greed, ridiculous unfunded state ed mandates, and the collegial negativity emerging due to Cuomo's merit pay scheme which is rewarded based on a flawed system. When will you listen?

Yes I admit that some educators have said that the standards aren't bad and of course, this is mantra that is repeated, but the minute you tied a nice fat bow around the whole package and wrapped it all together, you destroyed any chance of fixing this mess. As an English teacher, I can attest to the fact that once a term has a negative connotative meaning attached to it, there is no changing it. In fact, the Common Core is now a harsh verb as in "Students and Teachers are being Cored to death." Your flawed rushed implementation has made parents mistrust their districts and that will take years to fix; it has raised student anxiety to a level never seen before in education and it has driven out amazing teachers who can no longer just teach test prep because they have a conscience or have health issues related to stress. NYSED in conjunction with the government has created a situation that will take years to repair. When will you listen?