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"The switch to the Common Core Standards was handled very poorly and has hurt many students and teachers. Students are forced to take tests based on the Standards no matter how long they have been taught using the Standards. The tests have been developmentally inappropriate in both length and content. Teachers have not been given good examples of what the tests cover, nor are they given the results of the tests in time to inform placement and other decisions for the students for the next year. Another very serious problem with Common Core and the accompanying testing is how it affects Special Education students. Special Education students are already identified as having difficulties in academic aspects of school. To make them take the same tests without accommodating for their area of disability is unfair and extremely stressful to the student, not to mention redundant due to the multiple evaluations that they have already been through. Many students do not put forth effort because the task is so far above their ability to cope (not necessarily their academic ability, but the task in total.) To have teachers measured on this standard, as all special education teachers are, is also grossly unfair. My assessments the last two years were based on only five special education students, of whom only three actually completed most of the test. One student refused completely and another answered all the questions without reading any of the test passages. This was very difficult to see students struggle and feel so defeated that they would not even begin the task.

The shifts in curriculum to the Common Core and much of the curriculum itself are not necessarily bad, indeed much of it is very good, but the manner in which it has been implemented, how the curriculum is assessed, and what the assessments are used for is deeply flawed. I also feel that close reading and nonfiction reading might be overemphasized at the expense of literature. Both are important, but there should be balance. This is just a brief summary of some of the problems that are associated with the Common Core."