

Douglas W. Green, EdD, Administrator, DrDougGreen.Com

"You need to separate the Common Core from the test-and-punish system that is clearly not working. Giving every kid the same test based on their born-on date makes as much sense as giving the AP students and special ed student the same tests in the classroom. Students should take tests they are ready for with retakes if needed. I have yet to talk to an educator who thinks this system makes any sense. It seems to be a product of the corporate/political class and people with lots of money like Bill Gates. If our schools need to keep giving federally mandated tests, I suggest you tell schools to create engaging lessons and to not worry about test results, and for God sake, don't use them to evaluate teachers and schools. All that does is punish teachers and schools that serve poor kids as it encourages adults to game the system. It also pushes academics into kindergarten and preschools where many students aren't ready to read. At the same time, all subjects other than ELA and math are taking a hit and endless test prep is just boring. If you want more kids to hate school sooner, you are doing a fine job. If you want to discourage people from becoming teachers, mission accomplished. Current reforms are a fine metaphor for "The Emperor's New Clothes," but not much else. I started teaching in 1969 and served as an administrator for 30 years, the last 13 as a principal in a school with 90% poverty and 25% refugees. Now I blog every day at <http://DrDougGreen.com> and I can tell you the criticism of current reforms is loud and consistent from anyone who has real educational expertise. If you want to cure malaria, you work with researchers in that field. If you want to improve education, listen to educators not corporate leaders and philanthropists. Schools do need to be accountable and I'm sure you can come up with better ways to do so if you work with people who are intimately involved in schooling."