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I believe the Common Core Standards are very good as they are. My exception would be in the definitions of complex text at each grade level. We need to carefully and appropriately determine text appropriate for each grade level, using more than Lexile measures.

I feel it would be a huge burden to the teachers, students, and parents in New York to drastically change the standards. Many of us in education have devoted an inordinate amount of time to create instruction and resources that meet the CCSS. To start over again would be overwhelming and demoralizing.

The governor, the SED, and the Board of Regents need to review and revise the policies regarding testing and teacher evaluation. Leave the CCSS alone. The tests need to be shorter and/or given less frequently - every other year, every three years. They need to use grade-level appropriate passages on the ELA tests. Educators need the results quickly and we need access to the all the test questions so that we can analyze at a deep level and inform our instruction.

Using student performance for a large portion of teacher evaluation is a flawed approach. Instead, require teachers to stay current with best practice, use all forms of data - anecdotal, formative, and summative - to inform instruction, and focus on student engagement and active participation. Require teachers to prove that they are doing this through classroom observation, classroom artifacts, and teacher reflection. This could all be accomplished through a portfolio. Look to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification process as a model for this. As an Nationally Board Certified Teacher, I can attest to its value and authenticity.

I am an Instructional Support Specialist in my district, directly supporting our elementary teachers but also working with our secondary teachers. We are making progress towards achieving the CCSS. Our students can achieve these standards but change does not happen overnight. Look to Massachusetts as evidence of this. To significantly alter this course by changing the standards will be a huge set-back. Please don't change the standards; they are not the problem. Please spend your time and energy creating a better system for testing students and evaluating teachers.

Thank you for your consideration of this.