

**Kathleen Kostecky, Teacher, Lancaster Central Schools**

As an educator, I have no objections to higher standards and a more rigorous curriculum. I do have objections to not building the foundational skills before taking this leap. We are going to have a generation of students who are missing those skills, and therefore will not ever truly master the ideas and concepts being taught. I absolutely am opposed to these standards being linked to evaluation of teachers. I believe everyone agrees that this makes no sense, but unfortunately it is being done for political reasons only. The only teachers being assessed this way are teachers administering the state tests.