

**Emilio Mancino, Parent**

My daughter's success in high school can be attributed to her own efforts outside of the classroom as well as to the efforts of the caring and dedicated professional public school educators she has been fortunate to have. While learning standards are important, they should not impede the ability of the teacher or the student to explore other interesting concepts and/or topics within a field of study simply because they are not considered significant enough to be included in a "standard". Standards should promote creativity and curiosity and not be rigid and narrow. Assessment of knowledge should reflect and encompass the interests of a school community and not just some broad-stroked paradigm. The forceful use of standards on individual school communities, thus far, has primarily bred resentment and contempt as opposed to actual meaningful learning and assessment. Immediate adjustments to the political scope and academic structure of the current Common Core standards need to be made in order for all parties to benefit from them and feel that their stake held is just as viable and essential as any other stakeholder. Thank you.