

Jennifer Perney, Parent

I am not a “misinformed parent”, just upset over the testing or with how the standards were implemented. Educating me on the standards will not help me accept them or understand them better.

I have many issues with the Common Core Standards, including the lack of research or evidence proving these standards are working and are truly higher standards; members of the validating committee for the standards refused to sign off on the standards; and how the standards were created by “stair-casing” them down from what a student should “know” entering college, so what they should know in 12th graddown to first grade and kindergarten.

The Common Core Standards are not developmentally appropriate for young children. They are one-size-fits-all, allowing no opportunity for individualization. All children learn differently. A young child learns best through play. As a parent of a now first grader, I’ve seen first-hand what is happening in my child’s classroom. Last year, my kindergartener was expected to be reading words, although developmentally, a 6 year old should be able “to start to read words aloud with ease.” A kindergartener should be learning actively through hands-on experiences, not sitting at a desk doing work sheets. I’m surprised how many “tests” my first grader comes home and tells us about. Cramming words at a kindergartener is not going to make up for the word gap created in early childhood.

I also have a 4th grader. She should not miss playground because they needed to catch up on work they didn’t get to yet or arrive late to lunch period due to finishing up a test or a lesson and not have time to eat her lunch. My daughter should not be crying over math homework each night because she doesn’t understand it, even though she has strong math skills.

My 6th grader shouldn’t have had to stress over “the test”. Two years ago I saw my child under a lot of stress/pressure to do well on the test. Once I made the decision to refuse, all that stress went away for him. That’s when we noticed the time spent with test prep activities. There are days he would come home from school saying the day was boring because all they did was prepare for the test he wasn’t going to take. That shouldn’t be how children are taught in school. Learning should be fun. When we received his 6th grade school supply list this year, I was shocked to see a 3-ring binder and dividers needed for gym; what happened with being active and getting exercise in gym, not taking tests.

I’m concerned over education in the state and our future. The state’s lack of trust in teachers with tying teacher evaluations to the children’s test scores, as well as the increased standards for teacher prep programs has caused a real problem with a decrease in professionals entering the field.

I urge the Task Force to fully repeal the common core, not just attempt to “fix” it.