

Kari Steeves, Parent

"I spoke for 2 minutes a couple years ago at John King's listening tour. I explained that my children had opted out of the state tests the year before and would continue to opt out until high stakes are decoupled from standardized tests. I didn't then and still don't care about the Common Core or any other set of standards. Research shows the quality of standards makes no difference in educational outcomes anyway (but you should already know that).

The problem lies in the consequences attached to Common Core and to the tests that piggy-back on them. Those stakes have turned my kids' quirky, progressive school into a traditional school with progressive window-dressing. Our rising test scores please the politicians and bureaucracy, but the severely constrained curriculum is horrible for the kids and not what I ever wanted to subject my children to.

As a parent and leader in the opt out movement, you should know I will not back down until stakes are removed from all tests, and assessments are returned to diagnostic tools designed and administered by teachers for their own purposes."