

## **Maria Trucios, Teacher**

"It's not just the Common Core roll out. It's the perfect storm of the Common Core standards partnered with high stakes testing, APPR, and financial board constrictors like the 2% cap and the GEA. This super storm has created rippling effects that ultimately affect our students yesterday, today, and tomorrow. It is a pandemic that must be stopped.

For who will teach our students of tomorrow?

Who will teach our future teachers? Are student teachers having a difficult time finding placement?

Look at teacher education programs. Are they hurting? Who wants to join this broken profession?

Look at the pool of educators. Are they retiring early or leaving the profession entirely? Are they sick and tired of the game of politics that has created this broken system?

Look at the administrators who feel they must jump through impossibly high hoops in order to make the grade. And how it trickles to the teachers in the trenches. Teachers who have lost sight of their inherent and intrinsic motivation of doing what they once found a labor of love. And eventually it ripples to the children in the classrooms. They will suffer the greatest losses.

Keep politics out of the classroom. Keep the great teachers in the classrooms. Treat them like professionals. Let them lead.

Don't just look at the Common Core Standards. That's public eyewash. Treat the disease, not the symptom."