

Erica Walters, Parent

Thank you for the 3 minutes. My children have been living this nightmare for 3 years.

This feels like deja vu. I've been speaking about Common Core for years now to no avail. Yet here I am. Again. Speaking at a so called listening tour with an appointed task force. What will really change? A new name? Slightly less testing? There is no way to fix this - Common Core is copyrighted. The only solution is full repeal of Common Core. We need to end it. NY state's previous standards were superior to Common Core and our state was in the process of developing new, better standards prior to Race To The Top. Those "lost standards" are what the children of NY deserve. That's why I'm here. That's why I diligently fight day after day, year after year. For the children of NY. For the future. Childhood happens once in a lifetime. Our kids can't get a do over. If this social experiment fails, what will happen? What will become of this generation? Will they be known as the Lost Generation -The victims of Common Core?

My own children are attending the very school I graduated from, yet I can't say they are receiving the solid, quality education I was fortunate to have. My teachers had the freedom and flexibility to teach us HOW to think, not what to think. Lessons were developmentally appropriate, yet challenging. I graduated with honors, went on to college and am a successful business owner and private teacher today. I wouldn't be where I am today without the great teachers and programs at my public school. Do the children of today not deserve at least the same opportunities to learn and grow that we all had? Shouldn't our highly qualified teachers have the flexibility to develop young minds and help our impressionable students reach their full potential without the constant pressure of meeting each standard at the appropriate time and without having to teach to the test? I want students to be taught in a way that allows them to be successful in life, not just on a meaningless test and not just so that they can be hired as an employee. I want all children to have an educational experience that allows them to reach beyond tests and getting just any job. I want them to be given the tools necessary to develop lifelong skills to go above and beyond a minimum standard. I want them to grow, to learn, to dream and achieve without limitations. If you are truly listening and making decisions based not just on data points and budgets, but on morals and ethics, you will make a difference for an entire generation of children by ending Common Core and giving them the superior education they deserve.