

Chantal Zambito, Administrator, EDUTECH

"I am also a parent and want to submit this testimony as both a Data Coordinator and Parent.

I have three children. One who started with the CCLS in K, one in 5th Grade and another in 8th grade. I am for the higher learning standards. I am not for the implementation or the connection to teacher evaluations. My child is now in 2nd grade and because Common Core Learning Standards is almost 1.5 years above the achievement level my other children were at that grade and no, my child is not gifted. I am fortunate enough to be able to provide outside tutoring for my oldest who has had to play catch up because he does not have the foundational skills the CCLS empower the students within the earlier grades. My child that started with the CCLS in 5th grade was at a very impressionable age as are all 5th graders and was caught up in the Opt-out movement and he was told by his teachers and classmates to opt-out. The weeks before the assessment was devastating to his confidence and created anxiety over how his performance affected his teachers' employment.

As an administrator that examines test results and is in charge of reporting to the state. I feel as if I am more of a tax collector than an instructional leader. The taint that the opt-out movement has put on the data, the changes in assessments, and changes to APPR guidance has caused people not to take the information and use it for instructional purposes. I believe in data driven instruction and removing teachers that are ineffective. I hope the politicians can find a middle ground and stop hurting the children in the process."