

I am a mom. I have two amazing children. But I'm not here to talk about me or my kiddos. So, I am going to skip the pleasantries. Here are my observations and concerns regarding the common core.

## **\*\*Bring back the lost NYS standards.**

Bring them back why?? Because they are research based, educator written and amendable. The Common Core State Standards are a copyrighted experiment. A man with less than two years of teaching experience crafted these standards. A panel of largely non educators reviewed them. They were adopted during a budget crisis and gift wrapped in 700 million RTTT dollars. They are poorly scaffolded, and developmentally inappropriate.

Implementation was indeed a predictable colossal disaster.... Like piling teachers in to a plane that's missing a wing and then wondering why it won't take off. If the standards were high quality, relevant, age appropriate, and there was an expansive pool of materials for teachers to draw from.... the hurdle of implementation would be behind us by now.

In the past three years we have had several expert panels, a common core commission, Town hall meetings, we've listened to business leaders and others deemed "experts", evaluate, review and convene....all while appearing to desire meaningful change without actually making any meaningful changes. Bring back the lost standards and repeal the CC. Anything less, is just more of the same.

Our children are not small adults.

\*\* A mother helped her fourth grader with a three page article about Syrian refugees. The text was rich in challenging words, the content was worldly,

The next day, that son asked his mother what was bigger, a county or a country. Without context and life experience, all that challenging vocabulary and globalized content does not add up to more rigorous learning, it just wastes precious time teaching concepts he is not yet capable of understanding. In the meantime, he won't be taught the difference between a county and a country, it is not in the standards.

Lastly, I have a few numbers for you.

- 263 million - the funding spent by the Gates foundation in advocacy of CC
- 4.8 billion - the amount allocated by the state of California for CC implementation.
- 64 kilobytes - the size of the computer that guided two men to the moon. We don't need advanced technology, just creativity and drive.
- The amount of doubt I have that education in this country could be rich, engaging, relevant and cost effective, if autonomously lead by unshackled school boards and the communities that elect them.

-Danielle Elliott