

Four years too late Gov. Cuomo.

Our children have lost four years out of their lives without a true education. Our children cannot get that back.

You have put this task force together for a total reboot.

Your words- The State's learning standards must be strong, sensible and fair, and parents and teachers should be able to have faith in those standards. This Task Force will ensure that this becomes the reality."

Parents and teachers want this to become a reality. We want our children to wake up with enthusiasm for school.

Will you make this happen?

The current written standards are a convoluted mess. They go against everything we know about how children learn. The "rigorous" pace in the classroom leaves no time for students to process the information they have learned. There is no time for teachers to review concepts which children may not have understood the first time. We demand you get rid of these standards and start over, from the bottom up.

You cannot tweak standards that are not working out. You must design a whole new set of standards; one that teachers can embrace for their students, standards that are successful in the classroom setting. You must create standards that are challenging, but most importantly age appropriate. We want high standards, but you cannot push children beyond their abilities. There are many risks you take when doing so. A child's psychological welfare is at stake.

Challenging children to learn must be done appropriately and yet with the understanding of how a child's brain works.

Create standards with true educators, who understand how children learn and grow. Assemble a team of child psychologists to work collaboratively with educators to ensure that these standards are consistent with child development.

If our children are constantly questioning and doubting themselves and losing the love of learning, how can we create a future for our country?

What are we leaving for the next generation?

This is why we are in the mess we are in.

We are not going away.

I assure you of this.

Don't fix it.

End it.

~Patricia Vellella