



November 1, 2013

Dear Parents, Teachers, School Administrators, School Board Members, and Concerned Residents:

Due to the recent overwhelming reactions and feedback regarding Common Core, we will be holding a forum dealing with concerns expressed by educators, parents, and other stakeholders regarding the implementation of the new curriculum based on Common Core standards. We are pleased to invite you to participate at our **Lower Hudson Valley forum on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Van Wyck Junior High School Auditorium, 6 Hillside Lake Road, Wappingers Falls.**

Some of the topics we will be covering include:

1. Reactions to the new education standards being promoted by the President and National Governors Association, known as the Common Core. Are there components being left out of the new standards? Are there unnecessary ones?
2. Was the implementation of new curriculum based on Common Core standards handled appropriately? What can be implemented to improve the transition to the new curriculum?
3. How has the new testing associated with Common Core affected students' attitudes toward learning? How has it affected their instruction time and the approach of classroom teachers?
4. What challenges have been presented to local school district administrators, curriculum chairs and principals as a result of the implementation of Common Core?
5. Are there concerns about the safety, privacy and access to demographic, enrollment and state assessment data on schoolchildren kept by InBloom on the New York Education Data Portal?

It is our intention to hear from as many participants as possible, but time constraints may require that those wishing to provide oral testimony provide written testimony only. All written testimony that is submitted will be included in the record and summary that will be prepared at the conclusion of the proceedings. Kindly bring 10 copies of your testimony, including your contact information, to the forum.

It is strongly recommended that persons wishing to present oral testimony at this forum pre-register by contacting the Assembly Minority Office of Public Affairs at 518-455-5073 or [minpaff@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:minpaff@assembly.state.ny.us) by November 10. Members of the media will also be invited to this important event.

Oral testimony will be limited to five minutes, except in response to subsequent questions from the panel, if any. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kieran Michael Lalor  
Assembly District 105  
Member, Assembly Education Committee

Edward Ra  
Assembly District 19  
Ranking Minority Member,  
Education Committee

Alfred C. Graf  
Assembly District 5  
Education Committee Member

David G. McDonough  
Assembly District 14  
Education Committee Member