

March 21, 2013

Dear Chair Kelly and Education Committee,

I'm writing with a deep concern for our children's current and future Education. Our school district has been under Common Core Standards for two years.

I have seniors (twins) at Wamego High School. Throughout their years in high school they have always been on the honor roll. Wamego does not grade homework and a student can retake tests until the student passes or feels comfortable with their grade. Therefore many of the students at Wamego High School do not take the grading policy or their studies serious nor do they feel they are being prepared for college.

The ACT scores have arrived and my children have failed the ACT in my eyes, even though they are on the honor roll. My theory that Common Core has failed my children has become reality for our family.

Wamego High School believes that ALL students should be on the honor roll as long as they continue taking the tests until reaching the goal. They believe this promotes students to try harder until learning the information; this is not the case in many families. Students other than my own have stated they can take the tests over and over, so therefore, they are not too concerned about having the correct answers the first or second time for that matter. Eventually the students get familiar with the tests and will receive a passing grade. This is proven by the low ACT test scores. I feel as a parent I have been deceived. This is NOT the real world.

I have a daughter in college. This new grading policy was implemented her last couple of years at Wamego High School. She gives the example of prior to the grading policy she received a "C" in a class which is very much deserved, after the new grading policy was implemented she received an "A" in a class that she did not know the information and did not deserve an "A" in the class.

My family is living the proof the Common Core approach does not work. My concern today is leadership as a whole has weakened. People are afraid to speak for themselves, people feel threatened. It seems we have become a nation of a game of "follow the leader". I pray Kansas will be proven leaders and not followers of this unproven approach to Education. It takes one with great integrity to accomplish this.

Sincerely,

Rachelle Routh

Alma, Kansas