

To the Honorable Ron Highland, Chair of the Education Committee:

I am a substitute teacher in the elementary grades of the local public school, and have seen first hand what Common Core is. I do not like what I see. In some areas, I have seen teachers grow old before my eyes as they struggle daily to do what is required of them, preparing the students for the dreaded state tests, knowing that their own job is on the line if the students do not do well. Any such "teaching to the test" obviously eliminates a lot of the basics, many of which the students have not mastered. Those students are being forced to move ahead and in turn are acting out and disrupting the teaching day. Classroom decorum is missing because of the stress of the unwieldy curriculums.

Common Core is a top-down, one-size-fits-all approach to educating children. Control of the curriculum must be returned to the local communities. We need a Kansas solution for Kansas education that allows us to make decisions based on a unique Kansas culture, based on unique Kansas needs, and based on what is best for Kansas.

In short, Common Core must go!

Thank you for your interest,
Lucy Clark
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