

Standardized Testing: Bad for Our Schools and Our Teachers

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In 2010, the Common Core State Standards Initiative, commonly known as the Common Core, was released. This set of guidelines details what U.S. elementary school and high school students should know in math and language arts at the end of each grade. Students' progress on meeting these standards is assessed by giving them tests.

Most, but not all, of the U.S. states have adopted Common Core. While the Common Core has good intentions, it has had many negative results for our classrooms, our teachers, and our children. We should repeal Common Core as soon as possible.

Common Core assumes that all students are the same, but every kid is different.

Many of the skills in the Common Core assume that all children learn the same way. But the fact is that children have a variety of learning styles, from visual to auditory to activity-based. Children who are more naturally suited to the Common Core methods do well on the tests, while children with different learning styles are viewed as "failures." This label is damaging to kids and schools.

Common Core takes power away from teachers.

Teachers are now required to follow Common Core standards, which prevents them from customizing their lessons to their students' needs. Teachers are penalized when students do not do well on the Common Core tests, which is unfair.

Common Core ignores children's needs beyond traditional academic education.

Much research has shown that children need activities, such as play, as part of a well-rounded education. Common Core is so time-consuming that it leaves little time for school activities that children enjoy. In states that have adopted Common Core, teachers have watched as children have started to dislike school.

In sum, we want U.S. children to be competitive with other nations. However, establishing one set of goals for every classroom in the country is not the way to help our children learn better. It's time to move away from the Common Core. Make your disapproval of the Common Core known by writing to your school board today.