

Cooper, Kathy

2976

RECEIVED  
IRRC

From: ja41693 <ja41693@ptd.net>  
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2013 8:34 PM  
To: IRRC  
Subject: Regulation #6 - 326: Academic Standards and Assessment/Common Core

2013 OCT 29 AM 9:23

Dear IRRC Commissioners,

I respectfully write to you today to ask that you do not amend Chapter 4 (relating to academic standards and assessment), and further, eliminate the use of the Common Core Standards (now revised to be the PA Core Standards) in the state of PA all together.

These standards and regulation are said to bring "rigor" into our classrooms. Rigor is defined by Dictionary.com as follow:

1. strictness, severity, or harshness, as in dealing with people.
2. the full or extreme severity of laws, rules, etc.
3. severity of living conditions; hardship; austerity: the rigor of wartime existence.
4. a severe or harsh act, circumstance, etc.
5. scrupulous or inflexible accuracy or adherence: the logical rigor of mathematics.

Is this the learning environment we want for our children? Harsh and inflexible? Don't we want children to love learning? How can that happen in such an inflexible environment? And how can any child love learning when their education is reduced to what would seem to be test prep?

And what about our teachers? It would seem that their job would be to simply prepare children for assessments, with no flexibility (only rigor by definition) in the classroom for teachable moments, interest-led teaching/learning, and to help our children develop a life-long love of learning.

There is so much more to learning than teaching to a test with rigor being a goal. Please, don't allow our children to be reduced to a test score! Help us as parents work with PA educators to bring about a love of learning in our children. I believe this is truly the best way to prepare our children for whatever future goals they have in life - college, work, military, or family.

Please eliminate the PA Common Core and amendments to Chapter 4.

Sincerely,  
Alison Bruno