

2976

Cooper, Kathy

RECEIVED
IRRC

From: Yohn, Cheryl on behalf of Help
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 3:51 PM 2013 OCT 30 PM 4: 01
To: IRRC
Subject: FW: IRRC Website - New Message

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us [mailto:ContactForm@state.pa.us]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 2:35 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



IRRC

Independent Regulatory Review Commission

A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: Marilyn

Last Name: Reed

Address: 181 Fair Oaks Street Wexford

Email: reedmom54@gmail.com

Subject: PA Core/Common Core

Message:

As a 12 year veteran of a public school board and someone involved in educational issues and reform for over 25 years, I am writing to voice my concerns about the new Chapter 4 regulations and changes. As far as I've heard, the IRRC has NOT received any real budget for the adoption of Common Core Standards. The only budget I've ever seen is the one submitted to the Federal Government for Race to the Top and that was around \$3 BILLION!! Now of course, that was padded to get as much as they could from the federal government (which is really from US the taxpayers!) but even if they only need part of that, it is more than PA can afford! Besides that, CC will not get the people of PA what they want or need in education reform. We have had standards since the 90's and we were told in a PDE hearing (in Pittsburgh) by the person in charge of "aligning" our old standards with the CC that they really had to do very little "tweaking" to get them to align. Our old standards in ELA & Math were grade as D & F. So, how did "very little tweaking" get us rigorous standards? Well, they didn't! The "new" PA Core Standards are basically the same as the old standards except by some minor changes, not quite as good. They will not help this state get their students to the coveted "STEM" careers or anything else worthwhile. Our children will be dumbed down even more by these new standards because if they are allowed to stand, all schools will eventually get rid of much of the advanced course work they have. How do I know? LOGIC! Already, I have heard reports from excellent elementary teachers who are being pressured to keep their whole class on "the same page". In fact, that is supposedly a big selling point for CC...walk into any 5th grade or 8th grade or whatever around the country and they will all be doing the same thing...CC. In order to do that continually...year after year, NO students will be prepared in the near future to

take anything but Algebra I in 9th grade and no students (unless they learn it on their own) will be ready for the advanced maths needed to get into prestigious schools or go into the college STEM majors. This whole thing was done by going around the legislators and the taxpayers and it should be stopped and the IRRC may be the only ones that are in a position to do the right thing. I respectfully ask you to NOT accept the changes to Chapter 4 and tell the DOE and the PA State Board that you do not want them to proceed with CC or anything like it.