

Yohn, Cheryl

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Wednesday, October 09, 2013 5:56 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: David

Last Name: Olmstead

Company:

Email: theolmsteads2006@gmail.com

Subject: Pennsylvania/common core

Message:

I write to you as a concerned parent, a concerned citizen, and a concerned American! I have three children, my oldest is in first grade, my son is in pre-kindergarten, and my youngest is two years old. We have loved our school for years, and we have watched our nieces and nephews as they have gone through the elementary grades. Recently, we have noticed changes in their math and spelling routines, different ways of doing multiplication. My first graders spelling words changed into learning a phonics rule without a set list of words to memorize. I was concerned and voiced my question to her teacher. I also contacted the principal as to why they made this change. I was given an answer that would change my perspective on our amazing elementary school, Common Core. I was told to expect many changes as well as an increase in the rigor of my child's school day. I had heard of common core a few years ago in debates about whether it was a good option or not. Since then nothing has been said about it that caught my eye. I was not notified as a parent that these core standards were changing in our state and in our local school. There was no media/news coverage of it being implemented in our state. Upon researching the effects on states where it was implemented earlier, I am beyond concerned. Children coming home feeling beaten down and made to feel stupid in the second grade is not what I want for my children. I do not want them stripped of literature that helps them learn to dream and to be creative. I do not want them learning "new math" where getting the right answer is not as important as knowing how you got the wrong answer. I want to be involved in my child's education not told to "sit back and relax" and trust the educators in my district when they are being forced to teach with methods which they do not agree! Elementary education is to instill a love of learning, while teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic. Children who are taught in order to pass a standardized test will not succeed, nor will they have a love of furthering their education. Giving up state control of education to a national standard is a terrible idea. Giving my children an education that was created by a billionaire looking to grow his future "market" is not acceptable. I am begging the Pennsylvanian State Board of Education to review and remove Common Core! Give the power back to the state, back to the local level, back to the teachers! I do not want my children part of the testing of Common Core's success. I believe it is a heavily flawed system with consequences this generation will suffer for years if not removed! Sincerely, David Olmstead

RECEIVED
IRRC
2013 OCT 10 AM 8:08