

Cooper, Kathy

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**From:** kellybrent@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 24, 2012 9:08 PM  
**To:** ED, State Board of Ed  
**Subject:** PA Common Core Standards

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Dear Ms. Molchanow,

I am a mathematics teacher and the mathematics supervisor for Carlisle Area School District. I am pleased with the Keystone Exams replacing the 11th grade PSSA and I enjoyed working on revisions of these exams with DRC and PDE in Harrisburg last year. However, I am concerned with the upcoming adoption of the PA Common Core Standards. I have embraced the Common Core Standards and am impressed with the way they are written and the level of understanding of concepts that they push students to reach. I want Pennsylvania students and teachers to be working toward the same set of standards that our nation has set. I am concerned that the PA standards will separate us from the other states and make collaboration and sharing more difficult. Familiarity with the labeling of standards and the language used to describe skills and content to be covered will be lost for PA teachers who are working with a different labeling system. I am so proud to be a teacher in Pennsylvania and I want to stand nose to nose with colleagues from other states and talk about the Common Core Standards and implementation strategies with as much knowledge and expertise as others who work with these documents on a regular basis. If we teach to the Common Core Standards, students will pass our Keystone exams. I do not think our own version of the Common Core Standards is necessary and in fact I feel this will impede our state, teachers and most importantly, our students, from reaching the potential that the Common Core communicates.

I am hoping that PA uses the National Common Core Standards and does not adopt our own version of these. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Kelly Brent  
Math Program Chair  
Carlisle Area School District