

Common Core: a position statement from the Committee to Elect **Barbara Madeloni**

We support every effort to provide all of our children with a high quality education. The Common Core is not the means to do this. Teachers, parents and students across the country understand that the Common Core is not good for our children and are fighting to resist its imposition. We join them in these efforts and are opposed to the implementation of the Common Core because:

- 1) Common Core means more testing, more often. Implementation plans include testing in more grades and more often during the school year. We need less testing and more trust in classroom educators and their professional knowledge to assess student learning.
- 2) Common Core was a private initiative developed by consultants (funded by the Gates Foundation) for the National Governor's Association, working with Achieve, Inc. There were very few teachers or current administrators on the review panel and only one teacher in the initial group that wrote the standards. States were coerced into accepting Common Core under Race to the Top, when most states were in serious financial trouble.
- 3) Common Core has no research to support its effectiveness.
- 4) Common Core is a money grab for testing and curriculum development companies like Pearson, Inc., which stand to have an unprecedented impact on curriculum, professional development, and testing through PARCC while reaping enormous profits.
- 5) Common Core narrows our ideas about the purpose of education and the knowledge and experiences we hope to create in schools. Education is about much more than 'college and career' readiness. Common Core denies the creativity, imagination and empathy that are essential to the communities we hope to develop. David Coleman, chief architect of the Common Core (and not an educator) famously said, of the English Language Arts focus on close readings and no longer using personal writing, "As you grow up in this world, you realize people really don't give a s&%\$ about what you feel or what you think." This is not the ground in which to grow our children and communities.
- 6) Common Core severely limits the voices of educators, their expertise, and their academic freedom.
- 7) Common Core, in standardizing curriculum, denies the plurality of our country and of the knowledge and experiences of the children in our schools. Our democracy must be about diversity and not standardization.
- 8) Common Core is developmentally inappropriate with an unreasoned focus on attaining academic benchmarks that deny the full complexity of children, knowledge and the work of educators.

For more on the Common Core, review these links: _____

Fair Test fact sheet on the Common Core tests.
A Rethinking Schools editorial on the Common Core.
Defending the Early Years statement on Common Core.

