

7/8/2016

Dr. Steve Canavero
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Nevada Department of Education
700 East Fifth Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

RE: Improving test scores in Nevada's schools &
Common Core Standards

Dear Dr. Canavero,

I am writing to voice my concern over the low test scores throughout Nevada's schools, especially in Clark County, where we have the fifth largest school district in the United States, yet we are at the bottom of the list when it comes to test scores. Concerns rise from both low test scores and the Common Core Standards which is a set of high-quality academic standards in mathematics and English language arts and literacy. The learning goals of the Common Core are supposed to test what each student knows with proficiency at the end of each grade. Each year

our children are tested through a set of testing standards set forth through the Department of Education and each year I hear from friends and family who work for the Clark County School District that tell me how the students they teach are not performing up to the standards.

These tests are unnecessary and put the students through stressful testing, yet even if they do not perform well on the tests, regardless of the outcome, they are not held back nor is priority taken to help the children perform at even a 'standard' level of proficiency. This, I conclude, is counter-intuitive. Both the Common Core Standards and testing children – whether in elementary school or for high school performance which is required to graduate from high school.

Other options need be examined in addition to improving the methods in which we teach our children such as examining the methods of which educators are teaching through the Common Core and adjusting it to suit each child's individual needs as well as not putting so much pressure on the testing done at the end of each school year or possibly re-adjusting to meet the needs of all students and not just those who excel throughout their school career. Yes, this would cost money, but in the end, it would also save money because we would have more children who would thrive throughout their school career and graduation rates would be higher, thus more kids would prosper and become employable throughout the State of Nevada.

Sincerely,

Angie Johnson

Bibliography:

About the Standards. (n.d.). Retrieved July 09, 2016, from <http://www.corestandards.org/about-the-standards/>

Milliard, T. (2015). 20 ways Nevada schools could change. Retrieved July 09, 2016, from <http://www.rgj.com/story/news/education/2015/04/14/ways-nevada-schools-change/25757533/>

Nevada education officials identify 78 failing schools. (2015, January 16). Retrieved July 9, 2016, from <http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/education/nevada-education-officials-identify-78-failing-schools>, ("Nevada education officials identify 78 failing schools," 2015)

(2012). Retrieved July 9, 2016, from <http://www.doe.nv.gov/> (2012)