



CONNECTICUT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT

For Immediate Release
January 29, 2014

STATEMENT FROM CEA PRESIDENT SHEILA COHEN ON CCSS

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are intended to provide clear goals outlining the skills and knowledge students should master in each grade level, and promote critical thinking and knowledge of specific content. Unfortunately, all indications from the frontlines of public education indicate these standards cannot be met in short order under the existing conditions in Connecticut's classrooms. It's time for a thorough review and careful consideration by professional educators in close collaboration with parents and the community.

There is no reason to rush forward with CCSS implementation when there are so many questions about how the standards were developed, exactly by whom, and whether they are developmentally appropriate in each and every grade. We have heard too many stories of too many students in tears when youngsters are confronted with their performance on standards that are foreign to them.

Timelines and expectations need to be reasonable, student-focused, and do no harm. The bottom line is that policymakers should never move forward unless they can guarantee that no students will be shortchanged or traumatized in the implementation process.

The Connecticut Education Association represents 43,000 teachers in Connecticut.

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