

Assemblyman Dave McDonough: Protecting Our Children's Education



Investing in our children's education



Assemblyman
DAVE McDONOUGH



New York's Education System and Common Core

I have never before encountered an issue with such profound impact on our future as the Common Core Standards. Members of the Assembly Minority Conference and I hosted 11 forums across the state, several of which I participated in – including one here in Nassau County, one in Suffolk County, and one in New York City.



I've joined my colleagues to offer a comprehensive report, "At the Educational Crossroads," that looks at the current problems with New York's education system. The full report is available at bit.ly/educationalcrossroads. We also created the Achieving Pupil Preparedness and Launching Excellence (APPLE) Plan, which offers our solutions to fix some of the issues with the system. This can be found by visiting <http://bit.ly/APPLEplan>.

Fortunately, some positive steps were taken during the budget process to correct the system, including eliminating standardized testing for pre-K through second grade and protecting our students' personal data from being shared with outside agents. However, our full recommendation to completely reevaluate Common Core and its implementation was rejected by the Majority.

I will continue to work to improve the quality of our children's education, and encourage you to share your comments and concerns with me.

I strongly urge you to view the complete copy of the report garnered through our hearings at: bit.ly/educationalcrossroads

The APPLE Plan

With these concerns in mind, I'm now offering a number of proposals to help correct the course of our children's education.

Establish Funding Equity

Eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) over three years and ensure Long Island receives its fair share.

Restrict the Use of Student Data

Limit the disclosure of student information by a school district or private school only to those directly under the control of the district.

Evaluate State Assessments and Curriculum

Enact a comprehensive review of the Common Core Standards and Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). After this review, standards could be phased in on a grade-by-grade level.

Provide Equity for Special-Needs Students

Work with a special education student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team to decide the best course of action and ensure an individual's needs are not trumped by Common Core's rigidity.



See my full list of suggestions at:
bit.ly/APPLEplan

For questions on this or any state matter, contact Assemblyman McDonough at:
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