

## Draft Vermont-NEA Resolution

### **Support for Common Sense Implementation of Common Core State Standards End the Testing Insanity!**

WHEREAS, student readiness for meaningful postsecondary opportunities requires high expectations for their learning and success, universal access to rigorous academic content, access to broad curricular offerings including fine arts and physical education, digital literacy and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, safe school environments, and class sizes that allow for individualized attention,

WHEREAS, common core state standards in English language arts and mathematics clarify and streamline the academic goals for every student and set in motion a foundation for postsecondary readiness,

WHEREAS, adoption of common core state standards was voluntary among states that sought clarity around what should be expected academically of students across the country in preparing them to thrive,

WHEREAS, Vermont is one of the states who voluntarily adopted common core state standards,

WHEREAS, a broad array of education stakeholders support common core state standards, including associations representing parents, school personnel, administrators, superintendents, and elected officials,

WHEREAS, common core state standards are designed to provide educators the flexibility to use their professional judgment to design instruction aligned to the standards,

WHEREAS, new tests associated with these standards could have unintended, negative consequences that could overshadow any opportunity they offer in producing more timely and useable feedback for students, parents, and educators,

WHEREAS, students, educators, parents, and communities need time to collaborate and increase understanding of their roles in and the impact of implementation of common core state standards,

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Vermont-NEA affirms its support for the implementation of common core state standards in order to ensure all students successful entry into meaningful postsecondary opportunities and will urge state legislators to remain committed to the common core state standards and their implementation.

Let it also be resolved that the Vermont-NEA calls on the Vermont Agency of Education Secretary, Rebecca Holcombe, to adopt a new testing system that tests students in grades 4, 8

and high school as a more rational based schedule of testing compared to our current system. And that this School Board send a copy of this resolution to Secretary Holcombe.

Let it also be resolved that the Vermont-NEA encourages local school boards to develop authentic assessments associated with the standards as drivers of instruction, and to initiate the following activities before allowing outcomes of any aligned standardized assessments to be linked to consequences impacting students and educators:

1. Facilitate the development of *Common Core State Standards Implementation Plans* in consultation with educators, parents, and community leaders that outline the transition to standards with aligned curriculum and instructional materials, and that explain how stakeholders should prepare to incorporate new aligned assessments that include appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities and English Language Learners;
2. Ensure ongoing access to professional development opportunities for teachers, education support professionals, and specialized support staff featuring new or adjusted instructional techniques and tools related to common core state standards, including building and leveraging relationships with the [insert affiliate name];
3. Provide flexibility during the transition to the new standards to ensure sufficient time exists for aligning curriculum to the standards; for providing and for protecting students time for real learning and educators time for teaching free from the consequences of high-stakes tests that may not be aligned to the standards.
4. Convene implementation advisory committees that include students, parents, educators, and community leaders to maintain communication, foster collaboration, and ensure that families have a thorough understanding of the standards and the opportunities and challenges related to them.