



AFT Connecticut
AFT, AFL-CIO

Dear Educator & AFT Connecticut Union Member,

AFT Connecticut last month participated in the release of the recommendations by the Educators' Common Core Implementation Task Force that the Malloy-Wyman Administration established in March. Both the governor and lieutenant governor joined us and announced the launch of the "Connecticut Core Initiative" to immediately begin putting the working group's proposals to work.

Delegates to the AFT national convention three weeks later passed a resolution in support of the promise and potential of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) while criticizing inadequate implementation efforts. The "Role of Standards in Public Education" resolution generated an extended floor debate and lays out steps for union members to make CCSS work for educators and their students.

Working with our public education partners, community allies and the Malloy-Wyman Administration, AFT Connecticut had already undertaken many of the resolution's action items, which include:

1. *Rejecting low-level standardized testing in favor of assessments aligned with rich curricula that encourage the kind of higher-order thinking and performance skills students need;*
2. *Supporting efforts to hold policymakers and administrators accountable for proper implementation;*
3. *Advocating for states to create independent boards with a majority representation of education professionals to monitor the implementation of the standards;*
4. *Fighting to ensure that educators are involved in efforts to engage stakeholders and secure adequate funds to ensure successful implementation; and*
5. *Reaffirming the call for a moratorium on the high-stakes consequences of assessments for students, teachers and schools until all of the essential elements of a CCSS-based system are in place.*

The full resolution is available at the "Common Core State Standards" section of our website's "Professional Development" page.

We sent in June an email with the Educators' Common Core Implementation Task Force's report and an outline of the "CT Core Initiative" to members of affiliated PreK-12 unions. If you did not receive that update, sign-up with your personal email address at our website's "Take Action!" section. Both the full 42-page report and an outline of the Malloy-Wyman response plan are also at the "Common Core State Standards" section.

Taken together, the work of the task force and the administration's response demonstrate that the concerns of AFT Connecticut members are being heard and -- even more importantly -- acted on.

We have begun to make the progress on improving implementation of new standards promised by our AFT national convention's resolution thanks to a collaborative relationship with the Malloy-Wyman team. And we have also shown how the collective bargaining process can win more than just strong contracts for our members -- it can also help win improved public education policy.

More to come, and in solidarity;

Melodie Peters
AFT Connecticut President

Stephen McKeever
AFT Connecticut First Vice-President

Jean Morningstar
AFT Connecticut Second Vice-President

Patti Fusco
AFT Connecticut PreK-12 Jurisdictional Vice-President

P.S. Watch videos, read press statements and see photos of AFT Connecticut members at the national convention at our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/aftct.

Healthcare
Higher Education
Public Employees
PSRP
Teachers

35 Marshall Road
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
860/257-9782
Fax: 860/257-8214
Toll Free: 888/398-3373
www.aftct.org

Melodie Peters
PRESIDENT

Stephen McKeever
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Jean Morningstar
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Ed Leavy
SECRETARY-TREASURER

VICE PRESIDENTS
Erin Benham
Dennis Bogusky
Joanne Chapin
Ron Chivinski
David Cicarella
Shellye Davis
Patti Fusco
David Hayes
Jan Hochadel
Keith Inrig
Andrea Johnson
Laila Mandour
Patricia Mitchell
Chuck Morrell
Joella Mudry
Karen Prendergast
Randall Prose
Harry Rodriguez
James Romano
Kathleen Sanner
Martha Shoemaker
Susan Truglio
