

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

Comments from respondents (verbatim):
Standards not realistic for many students--will be difficult even for the AIG identified students. Not developmentally appropriate.
The language of the standards is not parent friendly, especially our ESL parents. I do not believe the student report cards should be so complicated for parents and younger students to understand.
This should read lack of teacher preparation due the lack of time for training.
The preparation takes time; many times that time comes from our personal stash and not within our workday.
Parents are uneducated
some of the standards are vague at best, many are above the developmental level of the students to which they have been assigned
Having the standards change in all curriculum areas at one time has been an extreme hardship on teachers and students. Combined with the total lack of support from textbooks to assist teachers and students in this transition and the total change in testing and the result in complete frustration from both teachers and students.
I would like to see all the NC school systems using the same pacing guides and lesson plans. If we are all teaching the same standards, then why should each school have to come up with there own thing. We should all be on the same page
The standards omitted needed foundational skills. I looked at the planning committee for the standards and North Carolina, South Carolina, and many other states have very little input. The members of the committee abviously had very little concern for child growth and development. They also are out of touch with the reality that many students enter kindergarten without having been read to, having books, or even knowing how to hold a pencil. Yes, I still have to teach kids to hold a pencil, and they cry because everything is new to them when they enter school. I believe in high expectations, but we must bouild foudational skills for success.
I think the state jumped in. It is a good idea. Just not planned for reality in the class room. It was planned in a room with adults, who had great intentions, but lacked reality with implementing it with actual children.
Teachers are trained and ready, the issue at hand now is that the text books are all over the place and not fully aligned with the new Core. While there is support, there is not enough.
Teachers need textbooks and other resources aligned with the common core standards.
I hear that some areas of the country think the standards lack rigor and their students already know the material coming into kindergarten. However, in the area of the country in which I live, our students are disadvantaged and mostly low income who do NOT already know the material. One set of standards across the nation is not fair to ALL students when all students do not have the same advantages from birth. How can we expect our kindergarten students to come to us already knowing the alphabet, book and print awareness, etc. when many of their parents are illiterate? And, cuts are being made to pre-school programs in NC. Many four-year-olds do not go to pre-school by choice, as well.
TESTING TOO MUCH!!
Resources, especially financial, are needed to equip teachers with the ability to teach the standards.
The first part is over, though. With the upcoming school year, I feel better prepared as it is not "the beginning" any longer.
Appropriate supplies needed to implement standards- student to teacher ratio. Supplies such as computers,resources such as books, even resource books, etc.
-parents lack training to reinforce information at home -low resources that are centered around common core for the students to use and manipulate

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

Finding resources to use when implementing the standards.
We spend money, time and energy on new programs, but never stay committed to them. The next "pretty horse" that comes by, we'll jump on it!
Lacking materials that meet standards
Social and economic hardships that students face are the biggest challenges associated with student achievement.
Student achievement improves when students and PARENTS take an active part in their education. When they view education as a waste of time, achievement will not improve. Parents need to see the importance of teaching their children to complete their work, read, and be an active participant in their child's education. No standards will fix that. When parents and students again see that there are consequences for not passing their classes, they will take education seriously. Testing does not show that as parents are aware that there are no consequences for their child failing the end of year tests. Our county has made it clear that the tests are not for the children, but rather as a standard to judge the teachers by. They were told in the local paper that this year's test would not hurt their child, but was being used to rate the teachers. How long do you think it will take for students and parents to figure out that they can get even with a teacher they do not like by failing this test? Our county made it quite clear that the purpose of the testing was to rate teacher effectiveness, not student learning. Well, that does not bode well for education and students could care less about the test as evidenced by their lack of trying this year. Students did not take the test seriously and how is that supposed to show that they are learning anything? How do you judge learning now? No program can fix this. All this program did was leave gaps, frustrate teaches, cause many excellent teachers to retire early, and take the pleasure out of educating completely. When teachers are frustrated with the lack of materials, inability to plan, and not knowing exactly how and what to teach... It only hurts the children. Was this your goal? If so, you achieved it remarkably well this years. Congratulations on totally messing up education. Whoever was behind this plan needs to be ridden out of education on a rail! They obviously do not know anything about education, teachers, or students today. Their incompetence has shown. What a shame that it was innocent children who we are supposed to be educating that caught the brunt of such an incompetent plan. Change this NOW! Don't debate....CHANGE for education's success.
Some of the meaning of standards is still vague.
these standards are recycled and not really different from before, just more words. I am not sure what the biggest challenge would be, maybe a little of all of the above.
resources not available..differentiated lessons not available...and so it pushed teachers this year to create lessons that have rigor..differentiation and to target all learners..plus find resources and learn a curriculum. It went good and is bound to get better..I just wish there were more specifics.
I am convinced that no matter what standards we have, there must be parents that care and are involved in their child's education that will improve student achievement.
More time to implement the CC standards.
I wish educators and teachers who are in the classroom would have had some say as to curriculum . It is hard to make rules and curriculum when you are not involved in daily experiences with students
We have 55,000 meetings every day. Teachers need time to prepare more meaningful and rigorous lessons.
Not having resources available that are aligned with the common core. Textbooks, etc.
Funding for the learning process.
Several of the above actually affect and challenge teachers and administrators facing the new Common Core. Lack of teacher preparation ties with schools unprepared for implementation.
Textbooks and resources that align with comon core.

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

All of the above!
Not enough resources available.
Lack of common core textbook and educational resources and lack of money to purchase. Lack of money for copies.
The biggest challenge is it being associated with teacher pay and the standards are too rigorous for the general population of students. Also, no certain standards will improve student achievement. It's how we prepare them. That all goes back to the teacher that is working hard and is told that her pay will be directly correlated to how her students are doing. I know for me that makes me think about another career. Working in a high poverty school should be rewarded by higher pay by just all the challenges that myself and my colleagues how to face on a daily basis.
Students in upper grades do not have the prior knowledge and skills from previous grades that were still teaching NCSCOS
no materials aligned with standards
Most teachers already use Common Core Standards in their everyday lessons, but it just hasn't been called that before.
ELL and low income communities are struggling
We need better training and more materials!
You can say all of the above, blame it on teachers, parents, no alignment between standards and testing, no real alignment between curriculums (K-12), and the big one...where is character education incorporated? A word of the day or week plastered on the schools website? You can't teach 21st century skills with out student understanding of the basic social skills needed to employ them. Global awareness can not be achieved where students lack appreciation of their own localities. The gap is growing between high achievers and low achievers. Why? Is it personal wealth or is it lack of a school systems resources (wealth).
As teachers, we don't need more professional development where people talk "to" us -- we need RESOURCES and time to work with the resources and each other.
No additional comments at this time.
Too much standardization, not enough freedom for spontaneous research or teacher creativity.
Some standards seem to be developmentally inappropriate.
Proper funding for quality training and textbook adoption.
no challenges
Money is always an issue when it comes to education. Extra money to fund materials needed to fully implement Common Core is a concern among educators and school systems.
Teaching to the test!!!!
Need to know the relationship of tests using standards to the course grade and passing requirements.
no textbooks
Useless training is wasteful. We need more meaningful and authentic content-based PD.
Many teachers were expecting the standards to go deeper and that we wouldn't be teaching as much. Now we are expected to teach more than before. Also, implementing the entire CC at one time was quite challenging.
Should have been implemented grade by grade staying with kindergarten.
Great teachers can take any material and bring it to life. I had nothing this year. But I enjoyed the challenge of finding material and meeting the challenge. 7th Social Studies
We need to address reading and writing instead of memorizing information. The social studies tests seem to be a joke.
Not all curriculums align. Not all should align.
The resources are there but hard to find and require a lot of paper to print.

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

As long as we can accurately predict test scores by zip code, changing standards won't matter.
Not enough time to really make sure the students get accurate exposure to the concepts. Also lack of explanation given to parents. They have not been very supportive of the classroom changes we have had to make to implement the standards. I don't think many of them understand what common core is really about.
Do Not Agree With The Principles Of The program
Students are so far behind that a different approach is needed. Basic reading, writing, and math skills need to be implemented for students to catch up, before any new initiative takes place. It seems as if the common core was dropped on the teacher's desk with a note to implement in teaching tomorrow. No new textbooks, no resources, broken computers, lack of effective instructional support, lack of teacher understanding, and students who have no clue and lack the basic skills to survive a sudden change. School systems need to go back to the reading, writing, and arithmetic incorporated with life, social, and character skill building. Once students are at level, then implement the new. It is tremendously challenging teaching 8th grade science with my students on a 4th grade reading and math level. It is impossible to move those students to the 9th grade level. We need help! Teachers do not have time to teach all the basics before our required standards. Students are use to being placed even after failing to meet state and local educational guidelines. So we are faced with challenging students who do not want to be challenged because they have been allowed to move through elementary and middle school without any accountability. Now, teachers are faced with being evaluated and paid according to what students score on a test. How fair is that? Some students are poor test takers, so are some educators. I teach science and I am being held accountable for students who cannot fluently read and comprehend after being placed year after year. Teachers are frustrated, aggravated, tired, exhausted, overworked, under paid, and not appreciated or respected.
I believe that we needed to test the waters first, acknowledge the challenges and determine how to estinghish sink or swim measures. We need to unite, correctly identify what is behind behaviors that do not lead to success and what we have the control to change.
no help from principals and APs
Teachers definitely need time and opportunity to prepare appropriate lessons that include cross curriculum training and implementation.
Teachers who are not prepared to add their own level of rigor may get away with duo g a disservice to students.
I did two summer workshops and some PD during the year, but no real time to sit down and spend time examining what the standards look like in practice. How they are different from previous standards and how it should guide instruction. I think they are strong and generally a good idea, but as usual, implemented too quickly.
Ill advised. Not every one can be an engineer.
Although initiatives have been implemented, it was a rush to create a plan and then implement it across the state and districts.
Common standards are a great idea; they provide a framework to guide teachers in the particular marks they should hit as they teach. The emphasis on testing and measuring all those individual students by one standard calls to mind a meme I have seen more than once online. In that cartoon, the animals of the jungle are lined up in front of a bespectacled man sitting behind a table. He informs them all that their standardized test is going to be to climb the large tree behind them. The elephant does not look amused... The biggest danger in Common Core and its follow-along testing is that schools will succeed in producing great test takers, but not necessarily great thinkers or problem solvers, and those are the skills needed outside the halls of academia!

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

Not knowing how the achievement of the standards will be assessed.
The 3 challenges I checked all reflect that we had to start teaching the standards without any textbook adoption to go with them. We were not ready, and had to make a desperate search for resources every time we had to teach a concept. We had to piece together from here and there all year, which was exhausting.
Teacher should have more resources and activities to keep the students engaged .
The biggest challenge is the testing. Students (children) are getting so stressed out because of a stupid test that is suppose to be for their benefit. When in actuality it doesn't help them at all, it just gives information. Intelligence can't be measured by some multiple choice test or any test!!! Everyone is different and to me testing wants students (aka children) to be the same.
There are going to be learning gaps and many holes to fill within students learning.
At the end of the day, good teachers know what is acceptable for the individual child and having standards is a good guide but jot a fix.
Total lack of support from NC legislature.
There is no consideration for the gaps the implementation created for example some students would have moved to 6th grade without the geometry which was moved to fourth and not taught specifically in 5th. (teachers taught more content to cover all bases). Maybe spiraling the implementation over time would help.
The biggest challenge is that people whose only experience in education was as a student are in charge of education policy.
Reading the Common Core standards, it is full of rigor but our students are not ready.How can students really understand the operations of rational functions when they are unable to add or subtract fractions without a calculator? Schools are uncertain what to teach within the scope of Common Core. Ex: teaching trigonometry within circular functions. I knwo what that means but developing the idea takes time. EX: In statistics teaching the idea of simulation and rejection the hypothesis. Teaching this well takes time
The situation in most classes are a few students whose bad behavior impacts instruction time. This seems to never be addressed at any level.
Too much time spent on testing and test preparation; not enough time teaching.
Certain standards aren't developmentally appropriate for the age. Higher order thinking can't occur especially at a First grade level until base knowledge is concretely established! No one wants to listen to the teachers that are in the trenches daily being forced to teach this.
Resources are not available due to funding restraints.
The standards (for Math) are high. Some of the test questions were not developmentally appropriate. The word problems for many students had too many steps, for a child that struggles already with math, this created an experience that caused them to "shut-down" during the test and not care about the remainder of the test.
All of the above apply!
no materials need for implementation
The testing NC has created as a result of the Common Core Standards.
The teachers and administrators are taught what to do- they just refuse to do it and continue to think that their way is the best way. Teachers are too set in their way of lecturing and controlling their class.
As someone said, it is like trying to fly a plane that is still being built. We were trying to teach standards that were still in "draft"; many were/are too vague to understand what was actually expected.
The school system has not armed the teachers with the training and materials needed for a successful implementation of the CCSS.

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

Teachers need more planning and collaboration time to prepare effective lessons AND teachers will still teach to the old tests as long as old testing methods (low on bloom's taxonomy) are being used. There are way too many assessments being given to students.
The amount of content is too great to teach during one year and allow any time for reflection and exploration. Ridiculous amount of testing. Teaching to the test. Takes away teacher and student creativity. Poor MSL's with many errors. "Racing" children to the top doesn't allow any time for them to explore, absorb or learn. Taking away common resources (ie. textbooks) then requiring a common exam and common assessments throughout the year does not make any sense. The additional testing is creating an extreme amount of stress and anxiety on children. We need to teach children to love learning, not how to bubble and click.
Negative press and "pool side" discussions between parents.
Students need smooth transition. Students do not adapt to quick change well
No textbooks
District lacks grading and assessment alignment across the district therefore all students are held to different interpretations of common core objective mastery.
Resources lag way behind and standards and testing information was either conflicting or absent.
The standards for my subject change monthly. It is difficult to prepare my students for excellence if the target is always moving.
Very apprehensive for special education students. Also, I fear backlash toward staff who teach students with learning difficulties.
I think teachers should continue their preparation to be more effective each day regarding the implementation of these standards. This is just the beginning, it would be awesome if great experiences can be considered and try to improve those that need to be strenghtened.
I like the common core, but the lack of aligned resources at my school makes it difficult to develop lessons. Planning takes a significant amount of time since we have to pull our own resources.
Standards implemented without knowing how they would be assessed for effectiveness.
Testing is not an effective measure of more than half the Common Core standards.
TEACHER PAID EMPLOYEMENT
Lack of funding to provide the necessary items (books, ie) .
Common Core does not let teachers address our own districts needs as well as what it should. There is too much emphasis on "one-size-fits-all."
There will always be different learning styles, children who come to school unprepared to begin learning, high achievers and students who struggle to stay afloat. Regardless of whether or not we have the CC, teachers are going to continue to do what they have to do to meet the needs of all of their students.
Just the latest and greatest attempt in improving student's grade without a lot of thought about how this is properly implemented and what is expected after it is
Rich resources/several examples/ and depth of information for students to know.
Lack of money from state and local.
Students entering kindergarten who lack the basic skills required by the Common Core Standards.
materials
Students aren't prepared to handle the more rigorous close reads. It is a struggle when there isn't a good foundation.
The lack of resources made it difficult to implement the common core this first year.
Student achievement comes through good teachers and students having the desire to learn and rise above, not necessarily from a set of standards. All students are unique and have different abilities. We cannot expect everyone to be on the same level, moving in the same direction. We need to meet

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

students where they are, take them to a higher level whenever possible. Common core for our students with disabilities is extremely challenging. Expecting a student, who functions within a severe to profound range, to grasp higher level thinking concepts is ridiculous and sets everyone up for failure. Not all students are college bound, high level thinkers--the world needs a variety of talents/abilities and I think common core is attempting to make everyone alike.
Getting materials aligned with CC
Interpreting what the standards are requiring.
The wording of the CCS makes it difficult to comprehend what they really want taught. We as teachers have been given training, but it takes a good year to two years of teaching the standards before you really feel comfortable teaching them.
We need more resources to implement changes in math, science, social studies, and the arts. The burden of funding accompanies the need for current, supplemental materials.
Standards are ridiculous expectations for the kindergarten students I teach!!
I am speaking in general terms not specific to my school system
TEXTBOOKS
Conceptual learning has to take place WITH procedural learning. Common Core offers the chance to help students become "thinkers" again. Cramming the schedule so full of everything and pounding on testing questions constantly does not give the quiet, pensive time needed to assimilate what is known with what is new knowledge.
Teaching children to write their opinions.
I can also add to the list having the resources to implement CC with such a budget crunch for supplies.
I can teach anything that is required. I do need resources that I now lack. That is the problem. Please understand that this is not by any means the first curriculum change teachers have had over the years. Changing the curriculum is part of the job for teachers.
Lack of planning on the districts part for implementing the Common Core Standards. I felt as if the plan was being put into place as it was being made. I felt as if I was always behind the curve, which added a level of stress that was overwhelming. I felt that I did not know what to expect or what was expected of me nor my students.
Too hard.
We need to find a quick and painless way to assess children that aligns with the standards. We cannot continue to spend weeks assessing.
Lots of exposure, lack of mastery.
Resources needed to implement the standards were not provided or available.
Their no materials to align with the common core standards.
I believe that with the common core many students will become more prepared for 21st century
For every step we take "forward" in education, I feel that we take two steps backwards. We need to lean more towards STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY. Principals are ensuring that students who are ill-prepared are passed in order to accommodate favorable numbers of "graduates" and reduce drop out rates. In my school, students with extremely excessive absences are "forgiven" and passed on, despite the fact that they have not mastered the curriculum.
New and updated texts are necessary.
U
We've had to prepare for CCS while implementing them, which was a lot of work.
Too many unknowns that states can develop together, which will assist learning, not its administration.
Students are not currently at an academic level that will allow them to successfully meet CC expectations

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

The standards are too vague and there are too many requirements at the 3rd grade level.
The standards are not specific and/or clearly stated. You don't need 30 words to state that students should be able to identify and measure the circumference of a circle. The standards sound as if they were written by intellectuals trying to impress themselves and their peers, instead of by educators trying to write clear, and straight-forward goals and objectives that can be easily understood and implemented by teachers everywhere. If your goal is to improve education, then don't start with an unstable framework. As my father would have said, "If you're going to do do it, do it right...otherwise, don't do it at all." I have, perhaps, a naive sense of hope that someone, soon, will do it right!
Uncertainty regarding assessments and having to work within what test publishers consider to be the common core
Drop out rate for EC or low performing students will likely increase.
NC is more concerned with their place in the Race to the Top money grab line, so they threw this together. Some systems were prepared, DPS was a model for inefficiency, lack of preparation, and guessing. Teachers rarely received guidance from the central office, instead asked state DPI experts.
We must have more student and parental accountability.
North Carolina jumped in too quickly without fully preparing schools/teachers with materials (textbooks) to teach CC.
Our school is not prepared for Common Core with quality resources that provide enough support for students to transition into a more rigorous curriculum.
Cost.
There are so many standards and not all of them are the best fit developmentally for that grade level. Some areas that are important to work on with students are not included in the standards for that grade level, so there is not enough time to cover skills that we know are important for a fuller understanding of certain concepts or skills. There is such a time constraint to cover all of the standards already included, which makes it difficult to teach students in depth and so there is less likelihood of true learning taking place in many areas.
We were forced to create all of our own documents in each county rather than being able to use timelines and units created by other counties. Why couldn't we share with other counties who had successfully implemented common core already? Why did each county go back to the drawing board? Couldn't we learn from one another what works?
I think implementing the standards is not difficult for my area -- language arts. I have needed extra time to search for more non-fiction resources to go with my units. My colleagues in social studies, though, have had to make huge changes in their curriculum.
Access to materials aligned to the curriculum
As usual North Carolina used the ready, fire, aim method.
Lack of teacher participation in development and implementation
Students aren't ready for it. So, there will be big drops in scores that teachers will be judged upon. Biggest impact: teachers leaving the field.
Administration does not understand the standards and do not know how to recognize when common core is being used.
Many standards are not developmentally appropriate.
The counties and the state should talk with each other so that teachers know what they should teach. The states common core standards posted online are vague and leave teachers confused on what they should teach.
Pace is definitely a concern - and "other" is the desire to go without textbooks and related resources.
There should be materials that match the standards and a plan with the order in which to teach it if there are still going to be benchmark tests. Students should not be tested on what they have not been

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

taught yet.
It all comes down to money. School districts do not have the funds to implement these standards without negatively affecting the classroom. It is expensive! Teachers also need more time and resources to help implement the Common Core. We are doing too much too fast and it does not help our students.
and lack of adequate and sufficient resources
Getting everyone on the same page.
Too much is expected too quickly.
The culture and the economy of the school district is what it is and no test will improve student achievement. For a school year you work hard with children, but sometimes they just don't get it when they see it on the test (scared) and the written government ruling will not help improve student achievement.
I believe the teachers need continued education for the standards and that the state should continue to work with the teachers on creating tests that appropriately meet and test for those standards. I feel like we have been somewhat thrown all the standards and expected to teach all of them while we ourselves are still trying to understand them all, and teach to the test that we have very little knowledge as to how the students will be adequately tested.
Teacher reluctance to shoot writing and literacy in strands outside ELA. Laziness and apathy.
Many of the supervisors and leaders did not know much about the CCS themselves, and shared this with teachers.
Lesson planning time for teachers is insufficient.
Lack of support materials and administrator understanding of how these lessons need to be taught. They want to see us teach the "old way", skill and drill. They feel that would have the best impact on test scores. My goal is for my students to have that greater understanding that I think is the goal of common core. Having not taught this way it seems to be hard for administrators to understand. I think we will see improvement on test scores when students grasp the concepts better. Just hard to find enough time in the day to cover everything!
We need better and quicker ways to assess the students, on the standards we teach.
The lack of funding, but this is nothing new to North Carolina teachers or teachers across America. We are expected to receive low pay, criticism, and then spend our personal money to improve our classrooms only to be criticized even more.
The biggest challenge in implementing the common core this year was recognizing the gaps in student knowledge from the previous standards. Over the next several years students will benefit from the Common Core.
To work IDEALLY to help all students of all of the many different levels of ability, the test makers should do what the systems tell educators to do. DIFFERENTIATE! Stop throwing all of these "new" educational theories at educators. Also, students should master one skill before going on to the next. How can they learn to think critically if they cannot read or understand the questions of a DBQ????
Unfortunately, many politicians would rather bolster support for their own political causes that ensure students are beat served with the assets the State of North Carolina has at its disposal. Additionally, everyone resists change. But, if change is for the betterment of our students, it must be pushed through. By delaying this change, we further compound the impact of our current deficiencies.
Wording of expectations. All the wording is so overblown. Use the basics and show examples.
Lack of textbooks aligned
Gaps created for younger students. Emphasis will naturally be on testing, especially with pay for performance being considered at the same time. Very inappropriate to hold low incident EC students

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

to these standards, and have functional/life skills completely removed from their learning.
If the standards are valid how can you evaluate fairly upper grade and middle/high school students and teachers if they have not had them as a base from the beginning?
Going from a state curriculum to a national one within one year (for testing/accountability prep) was stressful. I do not think we should halt the implementation of CC; however, some systems may need more time and resources to prepare for the increased rigor. At my school, most of our resources are aligned to the CC and we had system wide professional development to understand and compare the CC to our NCSCoS. I do believe the CC is what our nation needs in terms of increased standards and instruction, and at my school, we are excited to continue the implementation next year.
common Core will improve student achievement. Whether that needs to be evidenced by current tests is debatable.
I am very much in favor of moving back to a college track / vocational track system. CCS and "college/career ready" is a one size fits all approach. I have taught students who are not interested in attending or necessarily college material, yet they are required to take the same courses. We are failing these students! Even in a global economy, there will always be a need for electricians, plumbers, steam fitters, and beauticians, yet we prepare all students as if they were college bound, therefore, leaving some students ill prepared for the work force immediately after high school graduation.
It should have been implemented in K year one K and ! year two K, 1 & 2 year 3, a gradual intro. It was like giving 5th graders Spanish 4 without ever having Spanish 1, 2 or 3
The only way to improve student achievement is to hire bright teachers. I really hate to say this, but most of the teachers at my school are not that bright--most can't spell words correctly. Rigorous teacher education (which should require a master's degree) and improving teacher pay--this is what we should be focusing on.
Misconceptions about standards
No funding was given to districts from the State in order to implement CC correctly.
And finding resources.
The standards have increased the amount of topics to be covered in some courses. For the first time in 20 years of teaching, I was not able to cover all of the material in the standards. I have experienced the standards changing several times over the years, but never so much change with so little explanation. Along with the changing standards, let's not forget the frustration of the MSL's.
Lack of instruction material to go along with the Common Core Standards. As a teacher I can teach any subject, and have taught out of area several times and did a great job because I had the materials to guide me. Not having textbooks or enough technology to help students... always having to create my materials to implement the standards is costly in time and materials. The reason we don't have materials is because we keep changing things every couple of years. Decide something, stick to it, and go for it full on. Materials, technology, training.... make a commitment!!!! If we are questioning it already, was it really what we should have done in the first place? Or has someone else come along and thought we should change something again?? Tired of it!
Achievment is in the eye of the state and how they judge achievement - standardized test - Students that have been taught using the standards since kindergarten will see benefit. Standards are not being taught consistently by grade levels and there are no consistent exemplars so we as teachers know what achievement looks like as well as what the level of rigor really is. Teachers taking a stab in the dark - with little guidance - but still held accountable for scores - standard 6 - Give use examples of the types of tests /tasks that will measure performance - we can make learning enriching while making sure they are prepared.
Our students struggled with passing ncscoS. I believe we need to slow down and make sure our

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

students mastered all foundational skills such as: adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, time tables, and reading. All of these skills are detrimental! Over 80% of my students, each year, come to me not knowing some or all of these skills. It is not their fault. They are just passing each grade lacking foundational skills. Before you know it they will be in high school not knowing how to read or compute basic math problems. Common core is a great idea, however, if our students don't have basic math and reading skills, then they will not be able to explore, discover, and solve problems. We are setting our students up for failure! Something has to change!
There are gaps between grade levels and students are missing certain content that was moved from one grade level to the next without a means of getting the students back on track. For instance multiplying fractions moved from 6th to 5th grade however students in 6th grade missed this concept.
Insufficient resources, an absentee policy that doesn't work, and unfair testing make Common Core a nightmare!
Again, this is not because teachers aren't willing to work to prepare. We have limited and in some cases completely inadequate resources to be effective in the classroom. We need resources, professional development opportunities, and TIME to make this work. CCS is not going to work overnight.
lack of financial resources to properly implement, lack of financial resources to properly train teachers, lack of financial resources to compensate teachers for the tremendous extra effort involved to implement.
I beleive there are many variables that will impact a students learning.
We are all spending alot of time- trying to learn the new standards, trying to develop rigor, working on leveled assignments and then planning and prep work for everything. Unfortunately- we are burned out and there aren't enough hours in our days to do everything we need to do to do it well. There are other obligations- conferences, PLC eetings, county meetings, staff meetings and grade levels that also take our time.
Teaching to the standards & not to the students
Already commented on this.
No matter what the standards are until parents and students take their education seriously it will not matter.
The biggest challenge associated with CC is the right wing media suggesting that public education is becoming federalized. Educators will still have flexibility to make their own determinations about effective practices and tools in the classroom. The CC will simply streamline expectations across grade levels and across the US. This is a good thing.
We need to align our resources with the common core.
Uncertainty of how assessments will align with standards.
Many of the standards don't make sense...another waste of money.
We seem to have an administration that is really on top of this, but I have talked to other teachers who say that the testing and evaluations are being implemented faster than the curriculum.
Since there was no transition year built in, some students had the same content two years in a row if it was shifted up a grade level, and some students never had certain content at all if it was shifted down a grade level to a grade they already had before common core was implemented.
Lack of resources provided by by LEAs, state, schools.
The challenges to student acievement rarely have to do with a lack of clear or adequate standards on the part of schools. It seems, in my experience, that the lack of clear parental standards is a greater detriment to student sucess. We keep trying to find ways to reach all students despite what their parents do, and that is an impossible goal.
High school students need to have pasted through the new standards at the lower levels before

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

thrown into it at the high school level. They do not have the foundation to do the new standards.
The only things that are going to help students learn: More discipline and fewer students in the classroom.
The biggest challenge is the paradigm shift in the thinking, teaching, and learning of all stakeholders.
Again, the CC is being administered too quickly in that it is not being administered in a sequential manner grade by grade, beginning in Kindergarten and moving up each year with that first group of children.
Time in Physical Education class with the common core standards that are required and collaborating with classroom teachers to help them complete their standards as well. I would like to see all students more than once a week to accomplish all standards especially if there is going to be a test in physical education class.
Common Core is common sense but does not correlate to MSL'S or EOC tests.
Teacher resources and k-2 assessments do not align with common core in the county
I agree that it is important to have students throughout the country learn the same basic concepts at around the same time... what is more important than anything else is how we get them to learn it
Just like everything else regarding education in this state, NC jumped in the deep end with no floatation device. NC is just pathetic when it comes to education. If ANY other state would have me, I would leave in a second. However, because my experience is in a state that has so little respect for education, I can't go anywhere else. I was actually laughed at when I applied in another state. (In case you think it is because of poor teaching...my students, EC and inclusion, have not gotten a level 1 or 2 on any of the "tests" since 2002. I'm good at what I do, I was just unfortunate to land a job here.)
Teachers did not have access to resources with which to teach the new standards in the way they were intended and spent a huge amount of time trying to create and find their own resources.
Teachers must be able to adapt resources consistently. Funding is not available for support! Resources are needed - teachers cannot continue to fund their classrooms without support!
Our district is trying to "lead the pack" on common core. Training included many references to "we just aren't sure yet..." "We just got this information..." This is being rammed down everyone's throat without a clear picture of how common core affects all subject areas. My training consisted of how common core English and Math must be implemented into my curriculum by me. I'm trying to make the connection of how this fits with my subject area, teach what NCDPI requires, AND fit in common core lessons with connections to English and Math. These are unrealistic expectations with the likelihood of failure of implementation.
Too much was added in addition to the common core. Additionally, we need to wait to see when the first class who has had common core from K-12 tests. Class sizes must also be reduced.
first year was getting our feet wet, learning new standards; hopefully next year will be more comfortable and confident with resources and materials.
North Carolina's answer is always a sweeping change and a tightening of the standards are the high school end of things. The only way to effect real change is to implement the change at the beginning of the process and the add new levels are those students work their way through the system. In addition to this there must be a standard that is flexible but not too bendable. As it is students often arrive in high school totally unprepared at a time when the "accountability" testing gets the most intense and the high school teachers are blamed for their poor performance. Finally, NC should realize that there is no one answer for the problem of low achievement.
Too much at one time. As mentioned before- 4 new subjects with little support. We had training the year before- 95% a waste from people who did not teach us what we were to teach. None of the presenters had ever taught the subjects using Common Core. It was new to them so they did not have the experience needed to guide us effectively. At the elementary level we had 58 hours of

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

<p>training! This year we had only 4 hours. This year is when we need more time to talk about what we were teaching and the questions we had about the standards. Here is my main complaint: Never did I hear from any administrator at any level any of these words " I know there is a lot for you teachers to handle this year. You are doing a great job- hang in there- what can I do to help you do your job better- I will get that for you- thank you for your hard work this year- what support/training/materials do you need to make your job easier- If I could I would give you a raise- you deserve it!" I just want someone to express a sense of gratitude to teachers. I have never felt so unappreciated and over worked as I have this year, I have been teaching for more than 20 years. My feelings are echoed by every teacher I speak to in NC.</p>
<p>There was not enough time and training. Adding the MSLS the first year with the Common Core in place was not a good idea.</p>
<p>We didn't know exactly what was being tested. Some items like $1/9$ written as a repeating decimal seemed abstract. Now that I know it is tested I will explicitly teach it. I love the rigor and saw great gains in my students mathematical thinking.</p>
<p>Students need to be rated on improvement from where they were last yr rather than are they doing as well as others in many cases. This is especially true with students with special needs, a child that is Extend 1 third grade this year IS NOT qualified to answer questions for fourth grade next year....he should be judged on how much more is he able to do now rather than before.</p>
<p>Schools / teachers not being provided with sufficient economic resources to successfully transition from NCSCOS to Common Core.</p>
<p>just another way to pressure teachers who already know how to teach and don't want to be told how. That is why we went to school to be teachers.</p>
<p>Want more classroom resources to support - having to create own materials</p>
<p>Last school year, all teachers were required to use Common Core Standards to guide their teaching. Then students were given MSLS or Common Assessments which will be used in all teachers Standard 6. There will be a lot of teachers upset because the students didn't complete the written part of the assessment. I know for a fact that I exposed my students all year long on how to answer short answer questions. There will be teachers with low Standard 6 scores, which makes it look like they didn't teach all year long. I think Standard 6 should've started this new school year. In my opinion, there will be a lot of higher-ups upset about these scores.</p>
<p>As stated before, implementing higher standards with less support is ludicrous. We will have less of everything next year - fewer teacher assistants, fewer reading instructors, fewer secretaries, fewer instructors so classes can be bigger. It's discouraging to constantly try to do more and more but given less and less.</p>
<p>Continued disregard for the plethora of outside influences on student achievement including (but not limited to) parent involvement, family expectations for the school experience, impact of poverty....And the continued idea that teachers are supposed to be able to "fix" all that!</p>
<p>I believe our low performers, where EVER they are found, need inspiration, and examples of those who benefit by education to whom they can personally relate. Not more and more academic programs thrown at them, making the system ever more dependent on testing. I also think today's teachers are overwhelmed by constant changes and work being pushed on us faster than they can be properly prepared!!</p>
<p>Teachers are not allowed to teach the way that works best for their class no matter what standard we are teaching. In our school every teacher at the same grade level has to teach the same thing at the same time in the same way.</p>
<p>Resources and time for teachers to plan the highly engaging, cross-curricular lessons that are required in order to really implement common core are the biggest problems. There is no doubt in my mind</p>

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

that Common Core is a big step forward for North Carolina Schools.
- how it affects special area teachers . . .
As teachers we must be given training and time to put these standards into place. We need ongoing professional development to help us. School based training alongside time to develop lessons will be more beneficial than large school system sized PD. I am pleased to see that our principal is working to find the time for training/planning/lesson development at our school through out the year. We have just finished 2 days of this at school last week and will have days during the school year to continue this.
Too quickly without proper redources.
It's not the program that needs fixed, it's the overall lazy, disrespectful culture that we have harvested over the years. Students who want to succeed will find a way, those who have learned that it is easier to live off of the system, will. Sad but true.
Again, in the subject I teach, it is not the actual standards that are the issue, but the implementation of high stakes testing that came with them.
As stated before, the standards are too rigid. I don't think it will support student achievement, because it does not seem to be flexible enough to fit into existing curriculum in a way that is mutually supportive. The way the math part of the common core has been presented to teachers is especially weak. Now, instead of the actual math concepts that are integrated into some of my lessons, what's important is using Tier 2 math words in my objectives?
Everyone in power (i.e. NOT teachers) are on board with an untested set of standards--too much, too soon.
We are working very hard to assure that students understand the new expectations, but lower grades have lagged behind for a long time. We have students who don't know grammar and mechanics. World History needs to be divided into at least two classes in order to thoroughly cover all of the material involved.
There was a rush to begin training and it became overbearing for teachers to balance ordinary teaching demands with the extensive amount of time required for training. Also, correlating the Common Core Standards with the new state EOC tests was a mess; it was extremely frustrating for teachers and very unfair for students.
It is not acceptable that we are forced to be ready to implement this now and be assessed on it and held accountable for it. DPI has not be totally honest throughout this process. The information has changed over and over again over the past 2 years. The CR questions were not concept based and they felt very politically biased. There was a World History CR question about CLIMATE CHANGE. Why would climate change be on the World History exam instead of a science exam?? They asked nothing about the Renaissance, Reformation, Industrial Revolution... but they asked about CLIMATE CHANGE!!
To totally switch every subject with no resources provided to teachers is not fair to teachers or children.
We lack textbooks that match up with the common core standards and now do not have any textbooks that match up with the integrated math requirements that the state is implementing for next year.
Literacy materials lacking
You ask students to be creative yet you want to test them with standardized tests. This is what most people call a contradiction.
I do not think any of those are correct. I feel lack of preparation. From the state. Our EOG testing environment and content did not reflect the our teaching environment from the school year. Our local high schools invalidated Their EOG test because they did not align with the material taught.

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

Resources are necessary to implement the common core and we do not have everything that we need.
There are schools that are trying to incorporate Common Core into the state standards. It doesn't work that way. There are always groups that don't want to change.
Testing: TOO MUCH TESTING!!! Testing stresses out students, parents, teachers, administration, and the community. We have seen the complications of standardized testing in the past...and now we're adding more? Studies have shown for years that students from lower income backgrounds do not perform well on standardized tests, but with the new standards, we are giving them more. Teachers are having to learn new things: curriculum, standards, how to "teach to the tests," and are being held responsible for their students scores when in many cases things like: student apathy, attendance, home life, and even the inability to read (yes, there are many students, even seniors, who cannot read in our schools) are not being taken into account. On top of having to learn all of these new things, teachers are taking a pay cut rather than being rewarded for the extra hours we put in, the materials we buy ourselves, and the constant haranguing about test scores, test scores, test scores. Do you want high functioning, highly qualified, passionate teachers? Give us a pay raise. Do not take away Master's, Doctoral, and National Board pay. Do not take away tenure. We are being asked to give, give, give, and all we are receiving in take, take, take. Somewhere, with the addition of the new curriculum, teachers got lost in the shuffle.
No material available
CCS testing tied to teacher evaluation after only 2 years of exposure to standards instruction. New, LOUSY testing tools that take time away from teaching is more at issue than the actual content of CCS.
In my opinion the biggest challenge is the legislature has no knowledge of what is truly happening in the classroom and is making too many decisions that affect the educational process.
in my case, no textbooks to use as the core of the teaching looking on the computer for info and then having to make your own "text" of knowledge is unfair and unrealitic and just not right....there is not enough time in the day to teach, research, prepare, etc. i am tired of working after school and late into the night to find material related to the core/essential standards
Reading programs not aligned to standards
they are all problems, or challenges.
All of the above plus the lack of resources to go with it. No text books? Not every kid has the internet at home. The teachers are the best resource, but many of us are working two jobs to make ends meet due to the freeze on the salaries. We are pushing ourselves into the ground.
Resources used to teach and for students to have are lacking. Also, the gap of when CCS began and the students who missed valuable information they need because of the grade level shift of when it is taught.
Attended workshops but do not think proper preparation was given
Standardized testing never has, and never will, improve student achievement.
For many teachers and students, the standards require a significant adjustment in approach to teaching and learning. They will need time to make the adjustments needed to be successful.
Materials for teaching are not readily available. For example when I taught the Unit on Weather I didn't have any of the actual weather instruments for the students to have hands on experience.
State personnel that do not know what they are doing and what CC is and or it requires to be meaningful.
It is a lofty goal, but it falls apart when you get down to the daily lesson plan level. I found that I was already doing what CC recommended.
it was suppose to increase rigor however with the MSL and everyone passing (some can get 7 right on a 40 question test and pass) rigor is gone especially when you do not have to answer any short

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

answer questions and a student can still pass-what are we telling our students-rigor doesn't matter
Lack of planning and preparation on the part of the state and school systems. It is never a good idea to build the plane as you are flying.
Teachers needed more hands-on work during the summer to get copies and gather materials for STEM, reading, etc.. Having to make games and copies during the school year as you go isn't really feasible since we have many duties to do. Even splitting up the work on grade levels was hard to do. I wish we had more planning time as a grade level to implement it better.
Funding
We have to completely rethink public education. In our current status, public high schools are doomed to become reform schools with charters and private schools scooping off the best students.
Too many assessments...impacts time for direct teaching
The push to initiate this by the federal government is a negative in every way! Once monies get tied to following their specific curriculum, it will almost be impossible to get states not to follow their national standards, until it is too late and our students level of education has been 'watered down' so everyone can succeed. I do not like the liberal agenda that I am observing and hearing about in the curriculum changes in many courses, especially our history and english. I worry that our children will not be taught the truth in our history, but only the idea of whomever is writing the textbooks and curriculum. I think education should never be forced upon us to make everyone the same.
I feel that it is not fair to expect me as a teacher to be able to teach the new standards perfectly in one year. I believe we need to stick to finding better ways to teach them and align them across all areas (testing, report cards, daily lessons, etc.).
Lack of materials.
I am a beginning teacher, so the CC standards were implemented in my first year of teaching.
I think it would have been ideal to start the Common Core with a Kindergarten class and let it then follow those students. Some students did not receive the foundation that they need in order to be successful with the Common Core.
After seeing the test given and not having any idea what type of questions will be on the test many teachers were very, very, unprepared.
Curriculum and materials that are not aligned with the common core standards.
schools not taking the time and using the resources offered for common core.
this too will fade over time. let teachers teach. pay us more
Teachers are teaching to the test and students are not given the chance to have a complete in depth study of material like they should.
Not enough available resources and professional development for teachers to design lessons.
I don't understand what it is. I don't understand how to teach using it.
Standards were implemented too quickly, and no thought was given as to what skills/concepts were being omitted from grade levels. Also, equally important is that many schools are simply unprepared to implement them, due to lack of materials, training, etc.
Testing and teacher incentives create a negative atmosphere in the classroom.
I have no problem common standards of what needs to be learned in each subject, by grade level. I do think we are too rigid in ways we implement education and learning processes, and am vehemently opposed to all forms of standardized testing.
All of the above!!!
All the above apply, with each bringing on its own challenges. My concern from a high school perspective is that students in general neither desire nor have basic fundamental math skills to be successful in higher math and life after school.
That we will turn out a generation of workers with all the exact same skill set because they all learned

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

the same exact things
Testing and parent awareness
The evaluation methods using rubrics with measuring standards such as "understanding" and "analysis" offer no concrete proof to anyone that the student actually KNOWS the material. You can't measure understanding without measuring concrete knowledge, a point that CC wants to do away with in the classroom, but curiously wants to evaluate with a test that determines a teacher's effectiveness.
Accessing necessary materials and the money to support the implementation of the standards
These standards aren't preparing the kids for the real world. We graduate kids who can't read, cans balance a check book and don't know what credit scores are and how it will effect their whole adult life.
I would like to have seen math and reading implemented in separate years in elementary school.
Lack of materials and resources in some course areas that would allow the teachers to do their jobs effectively.
Yes -- all of the above and more. We talk of needing to create 21st Century thinking skills in our students -- creativity, teamwork, independent thinking, self-direction, research abilities, problem-solving, integration/synthesis of diverse resources, materials, and knowledge, artistic ability/appreciation, but then we implement standards that destroy the opportunities for these by insisting on standardized testing as the ONLY norm by which to judge achievement.
Common Core is a good idea but it needs to be brought in line with its advertise attributes. Depth in content areas, focused applications that relate to the real world, and assessment reform reducing the lose of academic time to testing.
I believe the biggest challenge would be the mindset of the teachers and being intentional in what and how we are teaching students.
Additional testing that invariably follows the Common Core is not effective and hurts the learning and teaching processes.
Teachers unwilling to change and not enough funding to get classrooms the materials they need to implement it fully, textbook, trade books, etc..
Additional resources are needed, and (paid) time to evaluate and synthesize resources.
Resources to help implement program
Schools need materials to teach and assess common core standards.
LEAs can go back in and set the scores as they wish them to look for the county. Plain and simple "cooking the books"
Implementing higher level assessments does not ensure that students learn more. Trained educators, time with the educational expert and higher level instructional will increase student understanding.
Not enough funds to buy new materials and new texts.
School systems will use the CC as a "Bible for Education" Rather than as a general guide to raise the standards of best practice teaching.
People are resistant to change.
Teachers are not prepared because they have no hands on learning experiences to relate to. They do not know what a Common Core Classroom looks like.
Not having common formative assesments and rubrics attached to the common core standards.
It takes a mile to turn an aircraft carrier around. But you've got to start somewhere.
There is nothing common about teaching. Each student, each class, each school, each dictrict, each state and each nations are all different. I always thought that education were to based on the students' needs?
A lack of assessment for teachers implementing Common Core in order to measure student

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

achievement.
This is not about student achievement. This is about money, test scores, and teacher evaluations. This is about Pearson making more and more money, about testing more than really instructing, and about holding money and test scores over teacher's heads as part of their evaluations. What does any of this have to do with instructing students, with helping each young person learn as much as he/she can in the best way that he/she can under the guidance and instruction of a caring, competent, capable teacher? I have taught for 30+ years and seen lots of programs come and go; this is the very worst of them all.
All of the above.
A good foundation should be laid in the early grades. Teachers are spending a lot of valuable classroom time doing individual testing. Teachers are expected to do more with less time. I've seen teachers and students stressed to their limits this year.
Teachers need to time to adjust their lessons and activities to meet the Common Core standards--this does not happen when we are forced to spend our time in professional development workshops looking at endless powerpoint presentations and doing activities that we will not use in our classrooms. Let teachers develop their own CC materials over the course of the year and turn in examples of what they have used that demonstrates Common Core at the end of the year.
Schools have to get on board and embrace the change!
How this will reflect on the teachers.
Hard to be positive about any change when we have not had raises in so long. Everything around us has gone up and up and up and up...bills, gas, groceries, college tuition, basic essentials...while funding has gone down and down and down. No wonder NC is #49 in teacher pay, and it is guaranteed that if we continue the path we are on, there will be NO highly qualified teachers. Why continue in this field when there are no incentives...and merit pay will only make that worse. With that said, implementing any new ideas will be tough.
Being evaluated under Standard 6 by my students' EOG scores, and my school graded A-F, based on tests that DPI hasn't had the time or funding to statistically prove. I'm very worried about Smarter Balance testing in 2 years, not taking the tests, but evaluating me based on the scores of a problematic online, new test.
No supplemental support financially in the implementation. Our school supports it greatly, enthusiastically at times. It just would be nice to have the materials, books, and resources to do it justice.
There was never a clear lines of communication from DPI to the schools.
Standards are very politically correct, but impossible to understand.
The biggest challenge is filling the gaps between years due to the movement of standards from one grade level to another.
In my opinion the biggest challenge of the CCS is its political affiliation and, therefore, the political backlash it is causing. Regardless of what happens with the standards, I will still be in my classroom doing what I think is right for students. This will not be the first time that standards have changed, especially in North Carolina where I have seen no fewer than 2 revisions just in the past 10 years (and that doesn't include CCS). The second biggest challenge of the CCS is just the lack of funding. Educators in this state have given up over \$1 billion in would-be step increases and adjustments in our medical insurance plans. I work in a large high school and EVERY TEACHER that I know has a 2nd job. What impact do you think that is having on the classroom? If schools or teachers are lacking preparation for the CCS, how might that have been better if they had been given time and money to properly handle its implementation? I think WCPSS has done a very good job of preparing us to move forward with CCS. Changing course now would just be more dollars lost and more frustration created

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

for the very people that it is supposed to help---students.
Its important to set goals and expectations but uncertain how "fair" it is to think that teachers (even having the same skill levels) can get the same results from students regardless of home environment and family income of the student. (Students from middle class homes have more resources available and often more stability than students that come from low income homes and are "bounced" from family member to family member.)
I think having national standards is EXCELLENT!! Teaching the specific objectives has not been a problem at all. I have 9 years of experience and content is not a concern for me. However, I hate that our brand new math textbooks are not aligned to the standards and just don't think we have the capacity to implement the style of computerized testing currently associated with Common Core.
Some standards are not developmentally appropriate for the grade level.
The CC increase rigor but I have not found that this helps those students who are struggling as much as it helps the students who in the past have achieve have a greater understanding and depth of thought.
Not allowing room in the curriculum for creativity within the subject or strengths of the teacher teaching their content area
Teacher having common prep time to work with members of their individual PLC (PLT) groups.
method of statewide common core evaluation is inconsistent with standards
The Common Core Standards are an excellent set of standards and very similar to our previous standards in the NC Standard Course of Study. The only challenge I see is teachers adapting to change.
Assessments must be fair.
Student achievement is an internal factor, if students did not achieve with state and/or national standards I see nothing in the CCSS that will increase student achievement.
The students who have had Common Core implemented since kindergarten will be the ones we look at the see if Common Core works.
People only learn what they want to or what they are scared into learning
In mathematics, students are resistant to tests that are not multiple-choice. The challenge is getting the students to explain the math needed to solve the problems.
I do not necessarily believe that common core should be problematic. It is not as if we were reinventing the wheel; the standards, in my opinion, will remain the same; they just have to remain rigorous for all parties involved. We will continue teaching what we teach now. We just have to stay on the same wavelength with all involved and be consistent in doing so. The only roadblock I foresee is staying connected as we implement rigor as it could be easy to not keep up and fall off the wagon, so to speak. I also worry that comparison among states may increase and create a negative battle away from our original goal of achievement and success for all children. I can already see more available resources for districts that have chosen to participate in common core.
Not enough time to completely delve into the standards before moving on to the next.
Stress on the economy.
Increased emphasis on testing associated with Common Core Standards as well as a lack of resources (lesson plans/units of study) to help teachers understand what the teaching of these standards should look like
I feel that our state as a whole was unprepared for the implementation of Common Core. I was disappointed to see that there was only one version of MSL tests and few versions of EOC tests. Also, I feel that as teachers, we were constantly "guessing" about what exactly we should teach and what topics to emphasize or not emphasize.
Tying testing to teacher evaluations. Rush to implement is fine if tests aren't tied to teacher evals,

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

but since they are, it is difficult to do the creative work ahead of time as teachers to properly implement the way they were intended.
Teachers were not involved in the preparation or development of the standards. Consequently , there are many disagreements on exactly what is expected. At some of the points in the Common COre, there are developmentally inappropriate mathematical concepts proposed.
Common Core is logical. I think teachers are scared to understand that the world is changing and they are stuck in their ways. I've even had a teacher look at me and say, "If I could just stand in front of the class and teach out of the book that would be wonderful." Teaching through real world engagement is an amazing way to learn.
Resources available to supplement the standards, and the enormity of the amount of exams given at the end of the semester.
the text books are not aligned
It was difficult ,at first, to understand exactly how to implement the Common Core Standards for Language Arts and Math into a beginning Spanish class while keeping my students in the target language; however, after district trainings and alliance meetings that addressed this issue, it has been a breeze. I wonder though, about the many teachers who do not come to the alliance meetings and who do not read district e-mails that are sent out. I feel certain that many of them are still feeling the same anxiety that I was feeling when we first implemented the common core standards.
Standards too rigorous
We can not find any textbooks written to the common core. We need money for materials.
The Common Core won't fix the problems within the NC Education System - you have to be able to offer quality salaries in order to entice quality teachers to work here. I have completed my third year of teaching, I love NC and was born and raised here but I am completing a master's degree that allows me to be employed elsewhere because the pay and benefits aren't good enough for someone of my quality and education level.
Testing was the biggest issue. School administration, teachers, and state personnel could not answer adequately questions regarding what would be on the tests and provide feedback to questions that we as teachers had.
Still too many standards - we can only cover topics, not allow students to master them.
Testing
Lack of communication to parents about what common core was and how it would effect their children.
Where is the data that shows this omibus program is successful? It holds school systems to a standard that Common Core itself does not have. Additionally this program was instigated without community knowledge or input. If you mention "Common Core" to parents, they have little idea of what you are talking about, yet their tax contibution float this leaky boat.
Again it is not CC that I have my biggest grip with-- it is ALL kids being forced to take upper level math classes. We teachers have to spend all our energy to help them do things they do not or may not be able to do while not pushing our upper level kid to reach all they can. I think the state totally shot their self in the foot when they changed the requirement from getting a high school diploma requiring 4 maths including Algebra 1 to all students taking 4 maths at the very rigorous level of a math above Algebra 2
We are not prepared.
direct from personnel at DPI this is a shepwreck but we will roll it out anyway.
Just do it and find out. Slowing the process down only delays student achievement because teachers and admin are in limbo. Common Core is not hard to digest. Everything is good on paper.
Under the Constitution, the state and local governments should be in charge of our children's

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

education. These federal grants - all federal grants - are poison.
No guidance or resources to help with Common Core.
Textbooks are not alligned to the new standards making it difficult to find the best means to implement the content. Many schools in my area have very limited technology resources. I had to bring my personal power strips and extension cords from home to make sure the laptops would stay charged during testing.
No materials, no conversations about struggling learners
Children have not mastered enough prior skills etc.
The entire effort was driven by the desire for grant money -- that in itself has nothing to do with improving education.
The standards disrespect kids and teachers in so many ways. They are not developmentally appropriate. They assume that teachers don't know how to teach. They were written from 12th grade down to kinders and clearly, they ran out of grades, so they shoved concepts and standards that are not right for 5 year old kids into the kinder standards. They disrespect ESL kids and special Ed kids. I cannot possibly describe all the ways the CC are wrong for the kids of our state and all the kids in the US.
Afraid it is just another gimmick that will come and go with someone making money of the "new" books needed and resources and then it will pass along like the other wonderful programs!
Lack of alignment! I do see the effort put into the planning of the Common Core standards, acres, strands etc. but we need to also take a look at resources! You cannot tie a person's hands and then tell them to manipulate something! Stick with it, refine it a bit, based on what is expected of the teachers because now we have MSLS. Perhaps choose common literature!? Common core is needed! Keep it! Just help the teachers to do their jobs instead of cutting every resource possible. Eliminate some of the junk programs that are overkill!
Ne standards, new tests, AND we now have student performance as a part of our evaluations...and this in the same year as new standards, new tests... :)
NC governor's office and Senate will do little to fund any curriculum. At least this gave us RttT money.
Lack of CCSS-aligned resources in schools. I teach Math and my district just adopted a textbook last school year that is VERY loosely correlated with the CCSSs. Frustrating.
Getting most/all teachers to be on-board
In Math only. I feel we should know what to teach exactly. For instance, we were suppose to teach alegebraic equations in kindergarten to the point that they could do the problems without manipulatives, not only that, but also in the form of a story problem but at least they could use manipulatives for that one. Had I known about that, I would have taught it often and maybe then at least kids would have had a chance to master that objective.
Staff development in resources to use or what can be purchased by our schools and districts. Teachers need clearer pictures as to what the standards look like.
Resources that are available.
We jump for the newest thing without the willingness to spend money to equip our schools and teachers with the materials and equipment needed. Teachers therefore spend their time searching for suitable materials instead of planning interesting and successful lessons. We feel that we are expected to "write the book" in addition to planning and teaching the class. High stress is the direct result.
This is a skewed question. The lack of awareness on the state and bureaucratic level is the biggest implementation. I strongly believe that if teachers are allowed the freedom to teach then the CCS will not be difficult to achieve. If teachers have to teach towards a common exam made by an outside institution then they will have to continue to teach to the test rather than teaching critical thinking

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

skills. The recent MSLs were not a test of skills but of obscure knowledge. Smart students will be punished for being able to think about history (in my case) but for not being taught one particular piece of information from the entirety of world history. If my paycheck is based on how students do on these exams, I am being discouraged from teaching critical thinking skills and encouraged to teach minutia.
It sounds like Common Core will entail even more testing. (I didn't think that was possible -- it feels like we test non-stop as it is!) I also feel like we can't make big changes in education just by changing standards. It's one tiny piece of it, but PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT and SUPPORT AT HOME are key. Until we admit this fact and take steps to address it, our schools will continue to struggle or even go downhill.
Tests not fully aligned.
We approve of the standards, but the test has the potential to damage student progress, morale, and faith in the state school system.
The insane testing!!!! and constantly changing what we are suppose to be teaching.
It was not very hard switching over to common core. Having the "unpacking documents" given to us by the county helped to lay out what was similar and what was different.
Schools don't have enough resources and I mean human resources to implement what is expected. We can't focus on our teaching for all the paper work that is expected and we can't facilitate learning for the lack of No TA's helping maintain order and not having Literacy teachers working with those struggling readers because of funding. We want to implement more ideas but there isn't enough teachers and resource personel to carry through .
The basic reason as to why we find the need for the common core.
When the student comes into the sixth grade classroom with lack of basic math skills and lack reading comprehension, we spend much time teaching things that they should know before being able to teach them what we are expected to teach them. So how can we get there when they are not where they should be when they arrive.
Text and Resources are not available.
Not enough financial support to make the total transition work.
It seems that there is a belief that more rigor will improve student achievement. However, there are so many factors. Students can achieve from anything when there is the discipline to work and desire to achieve.
I think my Essential Standards are ridiculous! Here are a few to share: Exemplify history, culture, geography, economics, civics, and government from a global perspective through the creation of theatrical works. Use theatre arts to explore concepts of civics and economics, such as systems, functions, structures, democracy, economies, and interdependence. Exemplify the concepts of civics and economics through the creation of theatrical works. The force of teaching US History in my theatre curricula has angered me. Why not the drive in teaching my own subject like the History of Theatre. Theatre History is much older than the USA. When I questioned such essentials in my program, the reply was "US History Teachers are not doing a good enough job!" I much rather teach from our old Standard Course of Study.
By this I mean the textbooks do not align with the Common Core and there are no plans to adopt new textbooks that do align.
Schools are unprepared in terms of resources, not teacher preparation. We know what we have to do. The testing component will be ridiculous, and yet again, our students are over-tested.
more materials should have been provided to teachers to prepare their students from the state (ex. question stems, sample test items, parent page for pulling up sample questions for each)
Need additional resources to help with the implementation. Especially more technology is schools!

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

Also additional professional development that would enhance our educational practices.
A lack of unified resources to help the math teachers implement the math courses that NC has aligned and created.
The CC was not tested or proven to improve student learning and we are putting all of our resources into implementing the CC. I would like to see a significant amount of data to support the CC before we use all our resources to implement it.
It would be much more student friendly if it were implemented first at grades K-2 and then introduced one grade level higher each subsequent year. The thinking and verbal expression required is different in many ways from prior standards and this could make it difficult for older students to make the transition. Also helpful would be for principals to receive more detailed training in Common Core. They are observing and evaluating instructional practices but don't always understand what they are seeing. This is especially true for those principals who don't come from a 18-30 student classroom teaching background. I feel that all principals should have this "real" classroom experience for at least 5 years before even being considered for the position of principal! Unfortunately we are seeing principals without that practical experience.
Not enough textbooks or materials.
There seems to be some ambiguity as to what is expected from the Common Core Standards. Right now, our county pacing guides don't align with the state pacing guides and we are given tests from both entities.
The overwhelming need/want for "data" at every level of our educational system will continue to hinder our already failing system. Common Core Standards are overall adequate as curriculum guides. The implementation of the whole thing is where the faults are. The only people who this is hindering and even hurting, are the students. My main concern is that this will be just another vain attempt at educational "reform" that will be replaced by a new "flavor" next year!
in rank order standards implemented too quickly. Lack of teacher preparation. No certain standards will improve student achievement.
It is a Socialist program meant to destroy our constitutional government for One World Order...read it for yourself.
Not enough materials. Things still being tested that are not common core standards.
We have a lack of resources for teachers to use to implement the CCSS successfully. This was an obvious challenge - why wasn't it included in the answer choices for this question?
Lack of resources
Money, supplies, manipulatives, and resources to adequately implement CC are LACKING.
Phase it in over several years.
No books and no materials aligned with the new standards means we aren't really implementing anything. It's just more fluff for the newspapers. On the ground level, it is just another impossible situation that teachers face.
Why would today's high school students be tested on the Common Core when it's supposed to be a process beginning in kindergarten? High school teachers should see the Common Core exams 9 years from now.
The students aren't ready to do the work in middle school because they are just passed on in elementary. When there is a solution to get ALL students on their specific grade level, NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES, and have PARENTS PLAY THEIR ROLE IN THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION, nothing will work
The tests given do not align with the common core standards and expectations.
There is too much in 8th grade curriculum to cover it all. Also, teaching Algebra, it is not right that the 8th graders have to take both tests. There is not enough time to do this. Also it is almost impossible

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

<p>to teach the implementation of the concepts when there are so many concepts. We have to move too fast and they don't really get any one concept completely and then it is on to the next one.</p>
<p>Testing expectations. If CC is so centered on project-based learning to reach ALL learners, then why are math assessments geared toward a SINGLE learning style and/or way of solving problems? It seems like they contradict each other.</p>
<p>lack of material to support new standards no funds to purchase supplies necessary</p>
<p>NEED RESOURCES</p>
<p>Curricular materials are not aligned and there are no funds to purchase new adoptions.</p>
<p>I think this is the first of many steps to move in the right direction. There is no one fix to solve all of the problems facing schools and students, but modeling ourselves after other countries who are doing better than us is going in the right direction. Now we need to add the other things those same countries have in them to go in the direction we are trying to get to.</p>
<p>Getting parents to understand them.</p>
<p>1. time constraints (block schedule at high school) 2. passing unprepared students</p>
<p>Teachers understand the content, but many did not buy into the new process of teaching (student directed inquiry). Those teachers are still teaching chapter by chapter through the textbook, lecturing, giving worksheets, etc. Common Core was just as much about the "how" to teach as it was the "what" to teach, but there seemed to be no follow-up with administration to make sure teachers were teaching in a new way. I know it is a process that will take more than one year to see all teachers implementing the new methods of teaching, but it has been discouraging to see the few who have jumped into problem based learning, choice menus, and other methods to give students more say in their learning.</p>
<p>Lack of resources to implement Common Core</p>
<p>Teachers need to be given CLEAR, CONCISE objectives with released test and samples so that they know what to prepare their students for. It will take years but I think the rigorous standards will help in about 5-10 years. It will have to start with the lower grades and move up with them.</p>
<p>The need to test test test . .instead of understand. AT my LTM we didn't spend ONE second going over common core adjustments... instead it was what mini test are we giving this Friday and reviewing how they did last week. Data is most certainly important.. but it should focus on growth of each student.</p>
<p>It seems our LEA is having major issues with trying to implement the MSL's which in my opinion are a joke... My question is, what is the over and under on how many rubrics will have incorrect answers, and worse yet, how many teachers won't recognize them???</p>
<p>School systems have, of late, been operating under the faulty assumption that "research-based" equals effective en-masse or best. While we are more effective when we take into consideration cultural diversity & differentiated learning among students, we also need to remember (and remind students and parents) that learning is an ACTIVE WORK process. In my opinion, rigid curriculum and testing standards result in less educated students; they must work at obtaining and retaining knowledge. It is okay to establish expectations of students. Not to do so would be a disservice to them.</p>
<p>These standards go against what is best practice procedures for teaching students. Our students will get to middle school and high school without the basic skills needed to succeed.</p>
<p>Our district does not know what teachers need; they have their own agenda!!!! Teachers need books, student workbooks, equal time to teach, and time to do our job. Be left alone to do our job!</p>
<p>How do you deal with standards that don't apply to curriculum - like structure in the home - family placement by DSS - We need to find some way to include or "Label" these students and how it should be considered in regards to student achievement in the classroom because every professional in the business of educating our students know that this is the one correlating factor that effects student</p>

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

achievement in the classroom.
Lack of time. We also lost countless hours due to Learning Team Meetings so we could not plan as we would have liked - children really are more than data!
What will improve student achievement is the opportunity to teach to students based on their needs, not the needs of the text, the county, the school board (intentional), the state, or the national curriculum. We don't teach the nation, we teach one class, one student at a time. We need the flexibility to be responsive to student needs. We need to be seen as professional, able to make decisions based on the good of the students. Have you met my students? How can you possibly decide what they are ready to learn, or what will inspire them? I can improve student achievement, but not because the curriculum tells me to.
Too much work for no pay. Haven't had a raise in five years, and none in sight!!
There is no consideration of the home environment of the student. We can only do so much in the classroom if a child is totally unwilling to listen or work.
Preparation as for what will be on the test. Also, having the test that is aligned with the standards. Some of the questions on the 7th grade social studies test were not even in the standards. Those were questions that is in the 6th grade curriculum. It was very difficult to prepare students for that test with no common resources that is aligned with the standards that will be tested.
We were expected to implement the standards and figure out the pacing and integration of all subjects in the same year. It would have been nice if the system worked a year ahead of the implementation and we had some pacing guidelines a year ahead before implementation. We feel like the assessments have not always been redesigned to meet the new standards in all subjects.
Not getting results to see how students performed on tests and changing schools and subject taught this past year, I do not feel that I am able to really answer this question. I do not have enough data to really answer this question. I do know that teachers have to adapt and need to teach students to be able to adapt concepts and ideas in order fit different situations.
Not having the necessary materials to implement the new standards.
There are many contradictions in what Common Core should be and what/how we are told to implement it.
I think the county bit off more that it could chew and have successfull students
The order in which standards were taught didn't always flow or seem to be the best way to go
There are numerous problems with how Common Core Standards were implemented in my school system. First, we were supposed to sit in one segment (language arts, math, science or social studies--the latter two were actually called "essential standards") for a grade level that we might--or might not--be presently teaching and might--or might not--be teaching the following year. Then we were supposed to come back and teach others who might--or might not--be teaching that grade level that year or the following year, and they shared what they picked up at their training. Who knows if we picked up the most important things to share or who knows if the others shared all the necessary information? At my grade level, we were all new this year to kindergarten, so it was like the blind leading the blind, especially since our two learning team facilitators (what a misnomer!) were both previously teachers for the upper grades.
As a special educator, I am trying to keep up with SCOS for different grade levels. With the common core, it seems that the emphasis is more on whether or not the students can write/read across the curriculum. There truly isn't time for students to keep up with curriculum-based expectations and write meaningful essays or read/study at a level that would meet common-core standards. Adequate time is not given for students to really learn and appreciate Science/Social Studies topics. Teachers are racing to touch on everything they think the students might be tested on at the end of the year. I believe a problem-based learning approach would help students learn & retain concepts that they

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

must build upon every year. I think legislators keep changing guidelines constantly in an effort to appear that they are actually doing something. It all seems counter-productive.
See previous comments about front-loading the standards.
Students must value the curriculum in order to be affective. How we make the curriculum valued for students cannot be based on a standard test if it is to be both affective and long lasting. Teachers at the end levels of education cannot make up for a lack of students achievement that has been endemic in their education career.
Test Test Test - We need to go back to teaching which is our goal. Testing only puts pressure on all students and teachers. Many test could test the same knowledge without being so long it wears students out and they just start making answers and many are falling asleep.
It is a Communist Progressive agenda to keep kids in this country down and dependent on the Welfare system.
No materials for teaching the new standards. Teachers were simply told to "look online" and given hundreds of websites to view. Thousands of sheets of paper per teacher were required to print out materials normally covered in textbooks. Having to dig through hundreds of links and websites stole valuable planning time. The state should have developed textbooks aligned with the common core to give to teachers. I have time to research to supplement the textbook, but do not have time to "write" or "create" my own textbook for common core areas. NC also added the burden of new Science and Social Studies standards at the same time. An unrealistic and far heavier burden for fifth grade teachers than for the teachers in other grades. We had to learn FOUR new curriculums at ONE time! Not fair to teachers and definitely NOT fair to the students that we claim to care about.
Lack of materials
money for computers, text books and supplementary materials. Every time I click on Learning Village resource to teach a standard it links me to Amazon.com to buy something. I haven't had a pay raise in 5 years and I can't buy anything therefore I don't have anything to teach it with. Schools and teachers also need time for planning. We are not prepared
The purpose (I thought) for the change was to implement a common set of standards across the nation. I thought that these standards would better address the "mile wide and inch deep" mentality that was in place prior to their implementation. This was not the case. The Common Core Standards were poorly written and vague. They did not allow teachers of standard-level classes to succeed because the standards were written specifically for the advanced students. They did not allow time for re-teaching prior concepts that standard-level students might have forgotten. They introduced 2 new concepts into the Algebra 2 curriculum (statistics and trigonometry), while only removing 1 (matrices--which happened to be the easiest standard from the 2003 SCOS). It was a very difficult year for math teachers, having to implement a new curriculum, using new teaching methods, without any supporting materials.
Standards are too board in many courses. Local teachers had to figure out what the standard wanted us to teach and how to interpret the meaning of the standard.
I think all of the above a equally big challenges and should have been considered before now, especially based on the fact there is no money for supplies/testbooks/resources!
Some standards cover a multitude of activities. Implementing the standards does not ensure the teachers will improve their teaching: a bad teacher can still be a bad teacher.
The counter-intuitive MSLs.
Tests associated with the Common Core standards (Common Exams) were poorly written and contained short answer questions (which I was required to grade) that were not even connected to my subject area. Schools are unprepared in that they lack resources such as textbooks that align with the new standards. Standards by themselves will not improve student achievement, but if they

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

are consistently implemented well, they make us accountable for our student's learning, which I think is not a bad thing.
Standards too rigorous! No middle ground or partial credit--students have complete understanding or developing understanding, but nothing in the middle don't account for multiple intelligences, and different ways to show these don't account for ELL, who need more time to develop their writing skills, but will get marked down in reading if they can't answer ques. in wrtg. about what they read
And the tests are a joke. Some of the test are so badly written, the students cried afterwards, or made fun of ridiculous mistakes. Some of them actually had the wrong answers on the grading rubrics we were supposed to use to grade the constructed responses. All of this effort to measure something but the methods are invalid. If you want trustworthy, useful data, you have to put time and effort into it, not just crank out a product as fast as possible.
Too short a period for teachers to start using it before they have to start testing based on it.
Students are not prepared for the rigor of the new curriculum. They are used to being fed information...passing the test then forgetting it over the summer. Then we reteach and the cycle continues. We need students to master the topic in order to remember it. It will take a while for students to understand that they will not be able to guess their way to a passing score. Hopefully they will stand up to the challenge. Educators must help them understand the material using in depth lessons that will prepare them to transfer their learning to any problem and problem solve. Parents put a big emphasis on non-academic endeavors and don't support homework and expect teachers to allow students to makeup work they did not do originally because they just didn't do it. We need to teach responsibility to prepare better citizens and workers.
When students fail these tests, they must not be allowed to move to the next grade level. Then, and only then, will they take these tests seriously. But all of us know, most especially this state's teachers, that will not happen. Angry parents mean incumbents voted out of office. Students will continue to receive diplomas, whether earned or not, and the state's teachers, as always, will be blamed when schools failed to "meet expectations." A colleague of mine was trying to explain the state's MSL testing to her students. One inquisitive student took it upon herself to call NCDPI and ask about the goal of these tests as related to student achievement. One question she asked was, "So these tests are more designed to judge teachers more than students (paraphrased)?" The reply from the official was "That's right." In summary, any state that is 46th in the nation in teacher pay and 48th in per pupil spending isn't serious about student achievement or anything approaching it. These tests and the standards they are supposed to be based on are purely political and have little if anything to do with educating students.
Too ambiguous, concept driven assuming students have the base knowledge needed to get the concepts.
We have not fully vetted the standards nor have we had enough input.
Too many people making decisions for students and teachers who haven't been in a classroom.
In North Carolina the time is quickly coming when teachers will begin to question EVERYTHING extra they are asked to prepare teach, or perform. This is because we are seeing that our reward for working harder and longer is to be paid less and less.
THEY ALL ASSUME THAT ALL THE STUDENTS ARE AT THE SAME LEVEL AND HAVE THE SAME HOME LIFE AND ALL SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE AND NONE OF THEM HAVE ANY LEARNING DISABILILITES!!!!!!!
I have several concerns. 1) They have been implemented before material have been made available to assist teachers in providing a common base of knowledge to students. This is especially true in Social Studies for teachers who have not taught the content included in the curriculum. All students need a common base of information to read and understand before doing group projects, worksheets

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

<p>or activities. 2) Including the progress of students as part of teacher assessment and pay on a new set of standards when the assessments are new and we don't know if they will actually align with what has been taught, is very unfair to the teachers. This needs to be reviewed when the new scores are available to see just how low the scores are. It is expected that the scores will drop significantly given the new standards set by the state.</p>
<p>unrealistic for children who CAN NOT read!!!</p>
<p>the curriculum moves to quickly, picks random objectives and in general makes teachers teach to the test. Classes move to quickly, no time to really teach or be creative.</p>
<p>I question the appropriateness of some of the math skills. I would like to have had report cards and assessments for each quarter so teachers could have spent their time developing lessons and strategies to teach the new curriculum instead of figuring out how to assess and what the report card should look like.</p>
<p>From past experience, the Common Core is dumbing down what students are receiving, content wise. I understand that this will provide uniformity across the states that implement the program, but we are pushing a lower level thinking. This is just another attempt to fix education, which will probably fall out of favor in 5 years.</p>
<p>N/A</p>
<p>Not enough available resources to assist teachers in teaching the new standards.</p>
<p>It was all covered under the NCSCOS. Stop giving teachers more to do by reinventing the wheel.</p>
<p>By the way, no one really knows what "rigor" is and it is different in every school. We are not allowed to teach creatively because there is so much emphasis on data and measurable outcomes.</p>
<p>I do believe that an almost national core of standards is a good idea in our mobile society...having each state create the standards for that state doesn't work well when students move from state to state as often as they do today.</p>
<p>We were as prepared as we could have been. The county handled it as best they could. The expectations of the state has created extreme gaps in learning from one year to another. The push for the Common Core started before the standards were even created. I feel that this was a huge reason for its lack of success in my school and county.</p>
<p>Civics and Economics Common Core Assessment was a joke to education. How do you give a Civics test that doesn't have any questions about the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, the three branches of government, or Supreme Court Cases. A complete waste of time.</p>
<p>While I favor slowing down with CC implementation, I honestly don't think the standards themselves are the problem. In fact, the way they are written seems more intuitive to me than the way the NCSCOS was written. I want autonomy in how I convey whatever standards are set before me. I want interpretative freedom. Will changing/slowing/dropping/adding standards ever provide that?</p>
<p>Budget cuts leave us with no resources to teach. Standardized tests are inappropriate. They test endurance, not knowledge and skills. They only test half of the curriculum, and don't even test that half proficiently.</p>
<p>The Testing Procedure is not reasonable for the students and the teachers. This year I had to take important exam review time away from my students to administer a test that did not count. The final exam that I had to give does not in any way test in a comprehensive way what I taught my students during this year. It took me 10 hours to grade my portion of the exams- I had 4 classes of 35 students each. 6 questions to grade. The week before my exams and during my class exam review I had to add 10 extra hours on something that did not count for anything- I am not alone in this. This was exhausting. The administrators had to be in the room any time anyone was grading- (think of ALL the hours that went into this pointless effort) In addition to all the hours for the grading, the teachers doing the transferring of the grades had to transfer more than 3,000 bubbles because scorer one and</p>

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

scorer 2 are not to know what each other gave the student response- We are told that no one at the State level knows what they will do with these scores and how they will be averaged together. Is this how my salary will be determined next year? In the grading room there were strict rules to not talk about student responses- which is a problem because the rubrics were awful- unclear- and in several cases wrong- especially World History- When Advanced Placement tests are scored the scorers are carefully trained in the rubric. The training required for this test just required graders to stick to the rubric- Discussion of the lousy rubric needed more than the 5 minutes the State allotted for discussion of the rubric.
The time this nonsense is taking away from teachers actually being able to teach is ridiculous. The "art" of teaching has been lost. Get rid of all of this nonsense and let teachers teach the way they want to teach. I have been in teaching a long time and none of this stuff is making students smarter or more prepared. All it is doing is making kids hate school, hate testing and cause disciplinary issues. This common core is overwhelming and a turnoff to struggling students. It's just another hoop teachers have to jump through to be told they are successful instead of actually allowing them to teach and recognizing those who have high expectations and who hold students accountable.
new reading textbook did not follow the CC. Had to make textbook fit into CC.
People will believe that the Common Core is the answer to all our problems.
Not having new books that are aligned with the standards.
Having time to be in our classrooms to really absorb the standards as we plan.
Teachers need time to process the standards and not participate in packaged PD.
So much change in such a short period has been extremely difficult to manage competently.
NC interpreted the standards away from the original format. It is not equitable for some courses to have 1 writing prompt and others 6.
All schools may not have the appropriate resources/ materials to implement the standards.
Any time you take an additional week out of instruction for state testing, you hurt the students. When will those who do not work in a classroom shut up and listen to what educated, successful teachers have ALWAYS said, 1) Lower classroom size;2)More paid, uninterrupted planning time; 3) More discipline help with disruptive students.
Not given supplies and materials to help up implement the new standards
Teachers were not given the resources to teach a new curriculum. No textbooks, printers, computer access, etc.
There is no "All of the Above" choice, so that's mine.
We do not have the resources staff wise or supply wise to fully embrace common core standards. We are expected to do more with less. Less supplies to teach, and less staff to do it.
we do not have any resources for common core
Students lack skills that required by the CCSS.
Currently, there is nothing "common" about the Common Core. School do not have access to the same resources, yet are expected to perform at the same level as those who have all of the resources! We do not have the money to change everything in one school year, but that is what they decided to do!
High School standards (particularly for mathematics) need to clarify what should be taught and to what depth. Furthermore, inherent in a new curriculum, there are gaps that need to be bridged so that students aren't starting in the hole. Overall, there seems to be entirely too much material to cover in the course of the school year. Furthermore, I have no confidence that what I'm being told to teach matches the Common Core Exams given at the end of the year.
As if there were never any standards before CCES. Duh.
There have been very few concrete handouts or materials provided to elementary teachers to assist

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

them in doing their job. We have had to locate our own resources to use in our classrooms. The math textbooks, adopted just 2 years ago, are useless.
It is one more "big idea" to try and will not be full supported or given enough time in practice to see if it really works or not.
I am retiring this year, and do not find the CC Standards to be a big change from the cross curricular teaching I have always done. However, I find the many new teachers want to teach skills in isolation and do not comprehend how you can teach a unit that involves three or four subjects, problem solving, and requires higher level thinking skills. The change to CC must begin with teacher preparation.
The added tests to the social studies curriculum are ridiculous. When teaching what is essentially a survey course covering a broad (and vague) amount of material, it is impossible to accurately measure the effectiveness of a teachers classroom by creating a uniform test for the masses. In addition we were told these standards would be based on recurring themes, however when the tests are released the questions are all based on factual elements that may indeed fit into a theme, but are impossible to answer unless that teacher happened to cover that particular event to address that theme in class. Thematic questions should be open-ended enough that a student can use any example they choose to answer them correctly. Don't tell them "this is the example you have to use", because they may not have ever covered that event in class. That does not mean they don't understand the theme; it simply means the test is full of horrible questions that do not accurately measure the learning that occurred in class.
Rigor is an interesting term to use when discussing student achievement. What represent growth for an academically gifted student is much different for what represents growth for the learning disabled. I also take issue with the pace at which this program is being implemented. We are doing what we are told without time or self assessment to understand the 'law of consequences' that is bound to rear it's ugly head.
Not enough resources
this is a building process which will have to be developed over the life of the student's educational career, beginning in kindergarten and being built upon grade by grade. Unfortunately, our leaders in LEA nad General Assembly have no patience so the results you are seeing now will chnage very little in the future
Getting everyone in the District to come on board with Common Core Standards.
It's good to have some sense of uniformity in educational practices, but achievement is most influenced by the standards or "common core" impremented in a student's home.
It just seems to me that something so important to so many would have been thought out and timed better! The train is out of the station and NOW we are asking should we have done this? Well if we don't then what is the alternative? Teachers spend a lot of their own funds to implement lessons in their classroom. Tax payers pay a lot of money that school districts use to purchase what is needed in classrooms based on these standards. Somebody needs to get their act together and make sound decisions!
None
Standards were put into place before we had the resources to implement them. We didn't receive math assessments from NCDPI until after the fact. We (teachers) had to develop our own assessments, pacing guides, and redesign report cards to reflect common core standards.
TESTING NOT ALIGNED!
As we've seen over and over in the past, this will be around for awhile, causing more headaches than it's worth, and then the next big thing will come down the pike, replacing common core.
There is a lag in catching schools up with appropriate teacher resources/materials.

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

I am prepared to teach, but having more students and less assistants is always the challenge.
States compare test scores
Throwing the grading on us with 2 weeks remaining in regular instruction was unbelievable
Use PEAK strategies
I have been teaching for a long time and I have worked a lot this year to develop new lesson plans aligned to the Common Core. It has been a lot of work for teachers. In 5th grade where I teach, the math curriculum is very rigorous. Kids have to understand addition, subtraction, multiplication and some divisions of fractions. I do think that addition/subtractions should not be introduced the same year as multiplications/divisions of fractions, it is very confusing.
Lack of materials.
It would have been best to adopt part of the standards such as literacy and math one year and then science and social studies another year. It was difficult for teachers to learn and learn to teach both new math standards and science standards. Especially for fifth grade, since both math and science are tested.
As teachers we are ready to take on the challenge of the new standards, but we were pretty much thrown to the wolves with regards to resources.
Not appropriate for children with severe/profound disabilities.
Especially with the report card for k through 2nd grade. It is has so many items put together that the parents have no clue what thier child actually knows or is leasrning in a given quarter.
Teaching common core will take time away from teaching content.
Extended Common Core Standards and Extend 1 do not take into consideration medical conditions involving intellectual disabilities over which teachers, parents or students have no control. Goals and objectives for these students need to be realistic (not solving algebraic equations for students who have no number recognition or one to one correspondence). Perhaps an overall sequence and heirarchy of skills from the time these students enter pre school until the time they graduate from high school, in which the students would be expected to master one skill before being taught the next, would be a better solution and a more useful and realistic teaching tool.
What I have seen is, teaching to the test. Just because scores go does not mean education is happening. Students need to know how to learn not how to memorise information.
The Algebra and Math 8 curriculums have broaden not deepen in rigor. We are unable to teach the content at the level of rigor because their is too much to teach.
Bill Gates stands to profit from the implimentation of the Common Core NATIONWIDE. Visit You Tube and watch the 5 part series Stop Common Core--it's by a Georgia grassroots organization. Very illuminating. There is a web site for STOPCOMMONCORE.
Teachers pay being based on students performance!
Schools did not have time or money to adopt text books that align with Common Core standards, therefore it is up to the teacher to find resources which align. Also, since there were not released EOG tests that aligned with the Common Core it was difficult to adequately prepare students for this years EOG/ EOC tests.
A full understanding of how to use the Common Core standards to teach Essential Standards. CMS has tried to provide us with more than ample time to learn the Common Core, however the time was not always well spent, on the school level.
I think all three of those go together. All in all it felt as though the state has put "the cart before the horse" so to speak with Common Core. I think it can be a great thing to implement, but why haven't we spent the time up front researching and using what other states have to offer. Why haven't we prepared our teachers with materials that have already been developed and proven effective? I feel as though I have trained myself this year with Common Core. It seems as though North Carolina is

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

trying to reivent the wheel!
Lack of resources to teach Common Core.
would you ask a doctor to adopt a new technique or prescribe a new medical without fully vetting it?
The purpose for the Common Core is to provide a common basis across districts and states. Student achievement cannot begin to be measured until after the program stabilizes and teachers have the opportunity to gain some expertise teaching using those standards. The biggest challenge is that the focus has been on the measures of student learning and pay for performance which they are trying to implement too early in the program. The "higher bar" being set by common core is discouraging current students (but, hopefully not those starting at the beginning of the program) and the perception associated for pay for performance is that of a "rod of discipline" instead of the "carrot".
We did all of it at one time in Guilford County. There was no easing in. It was way too much too soon.
Measures of Student Learning not lining up with the Common Core Standards.
Funding
As usual, North Carolina and specifically the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system jump the gun and try to implement ideas/standards/performance measures that look good on paper, sound good to the ear, but have not been fully researched or time taken to sort through ALL of the Pros and Cons of adoption and implementation. Being first to be on the cutting edge is one thing but being the first to fail at being first consistently time and time again is another. NC and CMS are consistently failures in being first to fail on innovative ideas that really are not so very innovative once they take a look in the "hindsight is 20/20" mirror!!!
How they will assess
Policy makers are not in touch with the students. When was the last time they entered a classroom and worked with struggling students? The common core was supposed to be less material in more depth. In my course, Algebra II, there is more than ever packed into the curriculum. The students can learn the material, but they need the time to learn it. I have to FLY through the material as it is, and the kids never get the opportunity master the concepts. I would rather the kids know MORE about LESS then know nothing, because I had to get throught the material.
Just not nessessary.
The materials in my room did not address the common core standards like I thought they would.
ALL ABOARD jump on this train down the same track.. TO WHERE????????????????????
Teachers having time to plan for lessons using the common core standards. Teachers needs time to plan with their team mates.
Again, the standards are so heavy on writing and language skills that students with deficits in these areas will struggle greatly in ALL academic areas.
They are a new wrapper for education that is making money for some political group
Too much focus on testing the children...when are we supposed to actually teach?
Students are not prepared - we can't test what hasn't been taught in all the previous grades!!
Testing students to evaluate teachers.
Lack of parent involvement, too many detailed, itemized expectations. Our report card is 8 pages per student per quarter!!!! 4 grades each just for comprehension in fictional and informational text!!!
I am already underpaid and currently I am being asked to spend my personal time grading MSL's after school because no one thought about how they were going to grade them BEFORE they were given. The questions are irrelevant and confusing and do not push our students to higher levels. Instead they allow kids to put their heads down and quit because the task at hand is impossible. We know testing doesn't assess all knowledge or necessarily guarantee student success in the future. In fact we know that when students start receiving grades in 3rd grade drop indicators start to appear. If grades have that kind of impact on 3rd graders what impact do poorly made tests have on them? It teaches

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge associated with Common Core Standards?

them that they must fit in a box to be successful and discredits any type of creativity or out of the box thinking.
8 page report card for kindergarten with every standard is ridiculous!
The biggest challenge for me was the overlap of the two curriculums. Because they were implemented quickly the overlap period should also be quick. I see no reason to drag it out.
Standards are an inch deep and a mile wide. The learning expectations are sometimes unreasonable and not age appropriate.
Tests are being used as a punitive measure for teachers and not as a benchmark of achievement which they were designed to do.
As I mentioned earlier, this was imposed on us without any input under the guise of Race to the Top funding. It is a sham and no one seems to understand it. Let me illustrate an example. Suppose a bully outright stole a hundred dollars each from fifty people. Then, the same bully offered to give back twenty of those stolen dollars to a few of those people. If they wanted the twenty dollars, they had to submit an application and paperwork detailing their plans on how they intend to be under the bully's authority. The "winners" are happy because they get twenty dollars and have completely forgotten that they had one hundred stolen from them.
Lack of commitment in dollars, training, staffing, and implementation.
I feel as though my teachers haven't had the proper amount of time to really "unfold" the literacy common core standards. They weren't given the time to dissect the standards and see what each standard looks like at their level. During our beginning of the year PD for CCSS, we weren't provided engaging/meaningful opportunities for teachers to interact with the standards. We focused more on the Shifts and only a few big reading standards. Better "unfolding" opportunities need to be given to teachers, so they are comfortable with the changes and can plan their instruction accordingly.
Designing tests that actually assess students on their knowledge of these new standards (including writing) AND standardizing the grading of these tests. Requiring teachers to grade written assessments of their own students does NOT ensure that all students are being held equally accountable. Requiring teachers to grade these assessments outside of the school day with no compensation is unfair and leads to apathy. Some of the new assessments (ie. Biology EOC) are still multiple choice...even "technology enhanced" questions on online assessments are ultimately multiple choice.
Testing, testing, testing
Assessment and how not to put economic and time burden back on the school house level.
My performance as a teacher will be judged by my students' performance on the EOC based on Common Core Standards in 10th grade - after my kids have been passed from grade to grade. Some of my students cannot read at 4th grade level; others do not speak English fluently. Some have 30+ absences. But my livelihood depends on tests results. As long as there is not rigor in the lower grades, and the US insists on passing along incapable students, we will never reach the goals set by the CC. Never mind that I have no decent testing preparation books or even a literature book from which to teach. It is yet again an unfunded mandate, and teachers will be blamed by all when this project fails just like NCLB. And let's face it: in five or six years, something else will be en vogue, and we will yet again have to start from scratch and waste valuable time to "learn how to teach."
Common Core Standards do not address the underlying causes for poor student achievement.
Just plain tired of jumping from one train to another train every couple of years. If, as a society, we wanted to really improve student performance we would have year-round schools and get rid of students who are constantly interfering with the learning of others.