Dear XXX

Lately, there has been a lot of outcry about the Common Core. Yet very little of this talk has been about what the standards really are and what they accomplish. The idea that these standards represent some sort of federal conspiracy may seem exciting, but the truth is honestly much more boring. Louisiana’s Common Core State Standards are a set of academic standards that better prepare our students for college and eventually the workforce.

The Common Core standards replace outdated education models based on repetition and memorization with standards that ask our students to think critically and independently, developing problem-solving skills that will serve them throughout college and career.

The success of the Louisiana economy depends on the abilities of the Louisiana worker, and the Louisiana worker depends on Louisiana schools to prepare him or her for their future. By installing higher standards, we’re elevating the performance we can expect from Louisiana students and schools.

In addition, to go with these more rigorous standards we need higher quality assessments that will test students on tangible skills. The PARCC assessment does just that by requiring students to analyze information and make evidence-based arguments in their own words and by asking students to show *how* they reached an answer on a math problem. These new assessments are testing our students’ critical thinking skills rather than making our tests an exercise in filling in bubbles.

The Common Core academic standards bring a level of depth and rigor to our schools that our children need to be competitive in college and career. Louisiana businesses are excited about the idea of elevating achievement for Louisiana students and the Louisiana workforce, which is why we proudly stand behind the Common Core.