Dear XXX,

The Common Core Academic standards represent an opportunity to move Louisiana’s education system into the 21st century. We’re raising the bar by encouraging kids to focus on their critical thinking rather than memorization skills.

The new standards ensure that our kids will be ready for college and their careers by providing a clear outline of what they need know and be able to do at each grade level. By setting consistent, high goals for our students, the new standards help ensure that all Louisiana kids – from Shreveport to Jefferson Parish – are on a path to success. Additionally, by instituting high-quality testing through PARCC, we can finally test our kids on real skills that matter rather than their ability to bubble in an answer.

While 80% of Louisiana jobs require some form of post-secondary education, only 28% of adults in our state have a post-secondary degree. We need to shake up the status quo so that our workforce and our students are both being supplied with what they need. When our students are prepared for college and career, it gives them the opportunity to earn a living and raise a family in a place they call home. We want all Louisianans to have that chance. That’s why we support the Common Core.