

Investing in a Challenging and Engaging Curriculum

What's happening in New York:

- **Common Core:** New York adopted the Common Core curriculum this year, which aims to raise standards and promote critical thinking.

Benefits of a quality curriculum:

- Increased graduation rates
- Decreased drop-out rates
- Increased college admission and completion rates
- Increased engagement in school

Concerns about quality curriculum in New York:

- **Cuts:** Since 2011, the State has made significant cuts to the quality of the curriculum:
 - 17% to Advanced Placement Courses
 - 20% to arts and music
 - 18% to Career and Technical Education
- **Lack of equity:** the State has not taken the responsibility to give access to high quality curriculum to all students.
- **Inadequate time & resources for Common Core:** not well understood by the public and is producing some backlash. New York is one of only two states implementing high-stakes tests based on the Common Core this year. There is considerable concern that districts and educators have had inadequate time and resources to fully prepare.

AQE's position on curriculum:

- NYS has to ensure that all students have access to a high quality curriculum no matter where they live. There is tremendous contrast in curriculum quality between school districts across New York State.
- Significant investment is needed to maintain and improve curriculum breadth and quality.
- For the Common Core to succeed there needs to be resources for professional development, curriculum materials and additional testing costs.
- NYS should proceed with Common Core implementation on pace but should seek a waiver from US DOE to delay any high stakes consequences due to the associated tests for one year.

