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**Issue:**

In 2010 the New Jersey Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) which have created controversy throughout the state.

**Necessary Background:**

The Common Core State Standards are grade-level expectations that define the knowledge and skills students should have in English, Language Arts, and Mathematics from kindergarten through high school. They require local school districts to develop curricula that aid teachers in ensuring that students meet the Common Core State Standards. Many people have concerns regarding the CCSS and these standards have created confusion and frustration statewide [2].

**Evidence of the Problem Existing:**

On May 28, 2015 Governor Chris Christie acknowledged that the Common Core State Standards have not been working effectively, and he suggested assembling a team that will develop new state based standards [2]. In alignment with the Common Core, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) was implemented statewide this year in order to measure student achievement and preparedness for college and careers [1]. Many New Jersey residents question how accurately the PARCC assessment measures student achievement and the controversy has resulted in thousands of students refusing to take the test. Given that New Jersey is spending approximately \$25.50 per student, or about \$22 million, on the new exam this year, this test also poses a serious economic burden [4].

**Impact:**

The controversy around these standards has caused unrest in the state leading to numerous protests. The PARCC assessment itself has put too much of a burden on resources and teaching time [5]. Furthermore, many people, including Governor Chris Christie, doubt the effectiveness of the CCSS, and believe that if changes are not made soon the quality of New Jersey's education system will continue to deteriorate. Given that PARCC testing is \$2.5 million more expensive than New Jersey's previous standardized tests, the issues surrounding Common Core State standards are creating a substantial economic burden for the state [5].

**Possible Solutions:**

One of the most popular solutions to this controversy is to get rid of the Common Core Standards completely and replace them with standards created by a state-based group. Along with this resolution, many suggest replacing the PARCC assessment with a more effective standardized test. Supporters of the PARCC assessment, such as Governor Chris Christie, suggest that the test be reviewed and improved in the coming year, instead of replacing the standardized test [2].

**Sources:**

1. <http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/parcc/>
2. [http://www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2015/05/christie\\_education\\_post.html](http://www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2015/05/christie_education_post.html)
3. [http://www.nj.com/education/2015/03/5\\_things\\_nj\\_learned\\_about\\_parcc\\_testing.html](http://www.nj.com/education/2015/03/5_things_nj_learned_about_parcc_testing.html)
4. [http://www.nj.com/education/2015/03/parcc\\_exams\\_following\\_the\\_money\\_behind\\_njs\\_costlie.html](http://www.nj.com/education/2015/03/parcc_exams_following_the_money_behind_njs_costlie.html)
5. <http://www.northjersey.com/news/explore-science-to-come-to-er-library-1.286196>