

From: "George Brown"
Dear Dave,

I have been a mathematics teacher in Spokane, Washington for over twenty years now and we desperately need a new direction. I guess, I would call it a return to an old direction. These kids I see every day have absolutely no chance of pursuing a degree in the hard sciences or any mathematics related degree. Their knowledge of basic algebra, geometry and trigonometry is woefully inadequate. Their ability to make use of basic algorithms of simple arithmetic is almost non-existent. I believe this is directly attributable to the use of constructivist type mathematics curriculums like Integrated Mathematics and Core Plus (Contemporary Mathematics in Context).

These curriculums emphasize the "discovery" of principles of mathematics by the learner. They do not instruct the learner in any way in the basics of mathematics. The over use of calculators is another strong factor in children's inability to reason mathematically.

A return to the sanity of instruction in arithmetic, algebra, and geometry would be a breath of fresh air in this fog of confusing standards, constructivist curriculums, and fuzzy mathematics. Please, do what is right for the students of Washington State. Strongly support HB2327.

Respectfully,

George Brown
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