



## **In Ad, Cuomo Cites 5-Year Delay on Using Common Core Scores**

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In a new education-focused TV ad released by Governor Andrew Cuomo's re-election campaign, the governor says he wants "not to use Common Core scores for at least five years, and then only if our children are ready."

It's unclear whether the statement is a new plan that Cuomo is revealing in the ad, or a claim about his record on the Common Core, the controversial standards for English and math instruction that have been adopted by most states. Cuomo has pushed for changes that would place less emphasis on students' scores on new standardized tests based on the Common Core, but none of those changes would apply for exactly five years.

Cuomo and lawmakers included provisions in this year's state budget that would prohibit districts from using Common Core test scores "solely or primarily" in promotion decisions or including the grades on students' permanent records. But those changes are permanent, not for a specific number of years.

Cuomo also negotiated changes with teachers' unions to make changes to the state's teacher-evaluation system, which measures educators' performance partially based on test scores. Cuomo's program bill, which the Legislature passed during the final days of session in June but that the governor has not yet signed into law, provides a "safety net" for teachers and principals whose ratings were detrimentally affected by students' low scores on the new exams. That bill, if approved, applies to only two years of evaluations: those for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years.

Cuomo's campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment explaining the "five years" pledge in the ad.

Cuomo's Republican opponent, Westchester County executive Rob Astorino, has leveraged unrest among teachers and parents about the state's rough rollout of the Common Core in his bid for the governor's office, creating a third-party ballot line called "Stop Common Core." Astorino has tried to blame Cuomo for the implementation problems, while the governor shifts responsibility to the State Board of Regents, which is elected by the Legislature and has authority over the Education Department.

Cuomo also promotes his proposal for a \$2 billion bond act to boost technology in schools: "I want to invest \$2 billion dollars to build the new technology classrooms of tomorrow," he says in the ad.



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Before this commercial, Cuomo had not actively campaigned for the bond act, which has drawn criticism from fiscal conservatives and only lukewarm support from education leaders and school groups.

Earlier in the day, the Citizens Budget Commission released a policy brief urging voters to vote no on the bond act, which will appear on the ballots this November.

The nonprofit is asking voters to vote no on the bond, arguing that the state is "approaching its debt cap; capital investment in technology devices is unlikely to yield lasting benefits; and no needs assessment has been done to weigh investment in school technology against other pressing unfunded infrastructure investments."

Here's the full transcript of the 30-second commercial, which features Cuomo sitting alongside his youngest daughter, Michaela, as she does homework: "Education is the gift we give our children, and they deserve the very best. Over the years, I've helped my kids by just being there. That's why I want real teacher and school evaluations; to stop over-testing our children; not to use Common Core scores for at least five years, and then only if our children are ready. I want to invest \$2 billion dollars to build the new technology classrooms of tomorrow. And I still believe the best education equipment is the kitchen table, and the best teacher is the parent."

You can watch the ad here.

[Read C.B.C.'s full brief here.](#)