

Resident Educator Testimony (May 24th, 2017)
by Logan Moritz

I am a 9-10th grade English teacher and track and field and cross country coach at Wickliffe High School in Wickliffe, Ohio. I was given Wickliffe's "Teacher of the Year" award ("The Golden Apple") in 2015 and have been rated as "Skilled" on OTES for multiple years. I have been named "Coach of the Year" in both track and field and cross country. I have invested a lot in my profession in order to achieve these things.

I also lost my teaching license because of my failure to pass one of the five sections of the Resident Educator Summative Assessment. I was shocked, devastated, and extremely anxious about my future. My wife and I began to think of ways I could exit the teaching profession and somehow leave Wickliffe and the students and student-athletes I had come to know so well and whose futures I was so invested in. However, the superintendent, principals, and board of education elected to continue my teaching and coaching assignments under a substitute teaching license. I was extremely fortunate to have earned the trust of my district. I completed the remediation work necessary to continue my employment and earn back a teaching license, and I am to complete the deficient portion of the RESA next school year. Needless to say, this school year has been an extremely stressful one, one in which my career hung on one part of an assessment, even though I passed every other portion of the multi-year assessment on the first attempt and with good scores.

The RESA has had no positive impact on the quality of my instruction. If anything, it has been a distraction and a source of tremendous stress. The remediation class was not about becoming a better teacher, but instead was geared towards how to pass that particular assessment. It was a class in how to take a test, in how to phrase one's answers.

I firmly believe that the RESA battery provides no benefit to my quality of instruction, methodology, or my students' learning. Instead, it is simply a source of stress that serves as a distraction from the classroom. I have demonstrated, through formal assessment and through my students' achievements that I am an effective teacher. The RESA nearly cost me my career. If this assessment can cost an effective educator his or her career, then it is not helping the state of education in Ohio. It needs to be eliminated.