

Good afternoon! I am here today as a former teacher and parent of 5 girls, 4 of which attend Lorain City Schools. This coming school year they will be in 8th grade, 6th grade, 4th grade, and Kindergarten. This past school year has been nothing short of frustrating, alarming, and upsetting! Their education is very important to me and is something worth fighting for!

My older daughter started her education at a private Catholic School in Lorain. She was behind when she was enrolled in Lorain Schools. The teacher got her back up to where she needed to be and her words per minute reading more than doubled that year! It was at that time I knew we made the right decision and our girls were in the right place! Fast forward to this year were things started going in the wrong direction very quickly. I could talk for hours about the things that have happened this past school year, but I will just highlight a few in this short period of time I have been given.

First, many of the administrators are inexperienced and unqualified. The CEO hired 30 new administrators this year, of which more than half have a temporary administrator license. This has shown throughout the year in many of their actions. Discipline has been terrible! Students were given far too many chances before any action was taken. A student in my daughter's class was allowed to have an outburst for up to an hour at a time, numerous times a week. (ex. throwing books, throwing chairs, screaming, and he also physically hurt a teacher) Instead of removing him from the classroom, the students were removed and put into another classroom. (a total of 45 kids) I was told that he had to be allowed to "cool down", while the education of the whole grade was jeopardized. Communication has been terrible this year from the top down also! A kindergarten parent missed her daughter's first awards ceremony because nothing was communicated about it, my daughter received a permission slip the day before the field trip, and I was the only person that attended a Title meeting as the info was sent home two days before. In addition, the administrator told the students they were a failing school in a failing district and really needed to do better.

Another frustrating part of this year came after the school year started they introduced standards based grading. Teachers were told to remove grades in their gradebooks and start to use this new way of grading. Teachers were not properly trained on this before the school year started. Parents were not properly informed about this and the students were not educated about this new way of grading. Report cards were repeatedly wrong every quarter and came home about four weeks after the quarter ended! They were five pages long and difficult to understand! Interim report cards came with "a grade" of on track or not on track. This was all very hard for our family as good grades are important in our house! Our girls work hard to get those grades and to not really be able to accurately see how they did was frustrating. Our 5th grader came home crying after receiving her first quarter report card thinking she did not do well because she received a "3" out of "5". Most are not aware, but a "3" means that you are working at grade level and where you need to be!

Finally, the districts Title 1 teachers were let go. These teachers were able to help the students that needed it most, in smaller groups, which was very effective. The district receives quite a bit of Federal Title money to service these students. We had intervention blocks this school year instead. All the students were put into groups and were told they were working on writing this year. They were now being taught by the art teacher, music teacher, or maybe the gym teacher. While these teachers are great in their individual classrooms, they did not go to school to teach writing! And instead of tutoring during the day, they thought it was good idea to offer tutoring at some schools for third grade before or after school. The district knows that we cannot get parents to come to things after school so this was not well attended. My daughter attended the morning tutoring. Six students were invited and for about the first month she was the only student that showed up!

I could go on and on! Thanks to the teachers my children received a good education this year, and I am thankful for that! But I truly feel that their third, fifth, and seventh grade years were lost. Between the grading changes, discipline changes throughout the year, and broken promises too many time to count... I do not know how much more they can take! As parents we should never have to worry about where we are going to send our children to school, and I have felt that way too many times this year. I will leave you with this - The CEO, ADC and the administration have more power than the Governor or even the President of the United States. There should be accountability, communication, transparency and oversight for the district, and without it, it's absurd.