

## **GiGi Guiliano, Parent**

Goos afternoon Senator Marcellino and Superintendent.

My name is GiGi Guiliano and I have 3 boys in the East Islip School District.

NYS doesn't need new standards. What we need is equitable funding and less testing.

But because NYS signed into the RttT, we are married to the high -stakes testing tied to the CC. We sold our souls for 30 pieces of silver. As a result, unfortunately, children are the collateral damage of corporate and Federal take-over of public education.

Damage is being done on a daily basis. If curriculum is being taught 1,2 or 3 grades above grade level in order to attain "higher order thinking" the results are devastating.

Since children's brains aren't developed yet, they shut down and tap into their limbic system. This triggers the fight or flight reaction. I personally know children that are self mutilating by cutting themselves, drinking, and doing drugs. They are 11 yrs old.

Damage is being done on a daily basis. My nephew's favorite part of his school day is dismissal. How said is that? Considering he's only 7.

Unless there are drastic changes to this education reform debacle, parents will continue to opt-out of the developmentally innapropriate, non-research based, high-stakes testing nightmare that has become the norm.

And if our elected officials can't help us, then we will just vote them out and vote in the people that will.

We have had enough. We want our classrooms back

My message to Commissioner Ellia is, "Can you hear us now?".

Thank you.