

Margaret Horton, Teacher, Horseheads Middle School

"I have no problem with the Common Core Standards, as they are very similar to The NYS Standards we previously had in place, other than there are too many of them. I believe I counted 137 exit outcomes. My frustration and deep concern is in the over-testing of our students with standardized tests, and in teachers' APPR scores being tied to standardized tests that students have no stake in, and about which teachers have been not been allowed to even speak. The ELA tests that I have seen are inappropriate in assessing what students can do, too long, and not even geared to allow for IEP and 504 modifications for students with special educational needs. In short, the roll-out, APPR, along with students' refusal to take the tests, have made them nothing short of a pathetic mess for teachers and students.

The tests have sapped the joy from the classroom, and many, many gifted educators will leave with the joy. It is such a shameful chapter in NYSED's legacy."