

Allison Spiegel, Parent

I am a parent who continues to be deeply disturbed about the common core standards and exorbitant amount of classroom time and focus spent preparing students for the state testing each year. I was recently told by a high-ranking district official in my town that state test scores are not allowed to be factored into whether a student with a learning disability receives services per an IEP. If these tests are useless in an educational capacity - especially with special ed students who struggle to take these tests in the first place - why are we putting our children through the testing process? That alone shows these tests are not for the benefit of our students. I challenge the state to come up with another way to evaluate teacher effectiveness - the bottom line is to put it bluntly: there are a lot of poor teachers out there whose students do well enough on state tests so that they avoid repercussions. We live in a very affluent, highly educated community where education is a top priority in our homes. State tests do not factor in the extra work students in our community do outside of the classroom. So many of our children have tutors and extra parental help and for this they are so very fortunate. What about other communities in the state where students don't have these benefits? These tests are flawed in so many ways and are therefore not achieving their goal of evaluating teachers. What they are doing is taking precious learning time away and stressing students out unnecessarily because some teachers place such a huge emphasis on these tests, and understandably so. If I were a teacher, I too would be nervous to be evaluated by a method that I have little control over. Shame on NY for allowing students to be in this predicament - and teachers too. There are no winners here and I implore you to ban common core and put the emphasis on learning back in the hearts and minds of students and teachers in NYS. Our students deserve better - they deserve to walk into a classroom to learn and not be stressed out that they are going to do poorly on a test that has no bearing on them anyways!