

## **Matthew Baehr, Teacher, Lancaster Central Schools**

In its simplest form, I believe that common core has a place in education.

Where I feel that NYS failed is in the implementation plan for the curriculum. In order for such a large initiative to work properly, it needs to be phased in one year at a time starting with a new cohort of children at the kindergarten level. The curriculum then needs to follow that group of students, and in their wake it needs to replace existing curriculum.

Unfortunately, this is a twelve year phase in period and no one wants to wait for those kind of results.

Using Common core as a band aid and overlaying some of it on existing curriculum has just compounded the issues that were there before. Now there is confusion and too much testing.

I find it unusual that the federal government and the Obama administration supports authentic assessment and less standardized testing, and state leaders feel that we should push common core and more testing. Seems contradictory to me.