

## **Tara Ann Carro-Scherer, Parent & Educator**

I am a parent of a six year old daughter and I have been teaching Special Education for the past 16 years. I am extremely troubled with the direction of education in NY State.

The math standards have changed 4 times in 10 years. Consistency is essential when working with children and this vital piece has been missing from our schools for way too long. Instead of relying on teachers, those who actually work with the children day in and day out, to help improve curriculum, politicians apparently feel they know what is best.

What the politicians have done is allowed developmentally inappropriate standards to enter our classrooms. No child should be crying over homework in first grade. No parent should be asked to attend a Parent Academy, so they can help their elementary school children with their math homework.

My daughter has a high average IQ, no disabilities and has been in full day preschool. She always loved learning but I see how this is starting to change. It is unnecessary to have to witness my 6 year old crying over HW. The negative energy that the EngageNY homework sheets have brought into our home is incomprehensible.

Since 500 words could not even begin to explain or breakdown the enormous monstrosity of what is occurring, I will provide one comparison to show the insanity of what we are expecting of student at the elementary level and how the graduation requirements have been watered down.

1. In first grade students need to understand equations, expressions, apply the property of operations (commutative and associative property of addition), determine if addition and subtraction equations are true or false, solve word problems and relate their strategy to a written method and explain the reasoning they used.

In comparison

2. HS students need only one regents in math towards their regent's diploma. For the past 10 years a student only needs to get 34% of the Algebra Regents correct to receive a grade of a 65%. Yes, it is a heavily curved exam.

So we have first graders crying over their HW and HS students considered College ready if they pass one Algebra regents by getting only 34% of the test right.

This is outrageous!

It is all a disguise to mislead the parents, community members and give students a false perception of success. Yes, many will go on to get the advance regents diploma and be successful. Those that get a regents diploma with the minimum requirements and no

technical training, are 28 years old and sitting on their parents coach during the day. Why because the system has failed them.

I don't even want to know what is going to become of the population of students whose spirits are being broken in elementary school because of these inappropriate standard.

This is taking too long to resolve and too many students are suffering. Someone needs to be held accountable! This is educational abuse on so many levels.