

**Mrs. Kelly Clifford, Teacher, Erie 1 BOCES**

I believe and support the Common Core curriculum, but am very opposed to the pre-testing process required in the beginning of a school year. No matter how many times I explain to my students that the test is something they should not yet understand, they still become very upset. One year when I handed an ELA test to my student, he began crying and said, "But Mrs. Clifford, you know I can't read yet". It took me an hour to calm him down and I felt it damaged the loving, trusting relationship I was trying to establish. In addition to losing teaching time due to testing, I lose instructional time due to student distress. Thank you for asking my opinion.