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I am a teacher of students with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders at the middle school level. Although I appreciate what the standards are trying to accomplish many math standards are especially convoluted and unnecessarily complicated. Number sense is important however it can be developed other ways than in writing down every mental calculation to perform a simple algorithm.

Students need practical math skills for real life and they don't always get it. For example why is trigonometry necessary for the average 8th grader?

My bigger issue is with the testing. Tests are too long, anxiety provoking and count for NOTHING for the students grades. But yet we are judging teachers by these useless scores. We are torturing kids for no valid reason other than to give an illusion that teachers are being held accountable for the first time. Its not true, and never been true.