

## **Sandra Cumming**

I help out at an after-school program in a low-income neighborhood in the City of Buffalo, and as part of my duties, I help young elementary students with homework, or at least attempt to! The Common Core program is very difficult to understand, and is completely different from the way I learned when I was young. I dislike the fact that the children are not taught their basic math elements by memorizing, but rather by making "pictures", counting on their fingers (?) or multiple steps to get to the answer. We were not instructed on this method, and unless they know themselves how to complete the work, it often goes undone. It is also very unsettling that these kids don't know how to spell or read simple words, and need us to do it for them. Just what are they learning in school these days?!