

Andrew Castle, Parent, New York State Public School Teacher

"Over the past few years student achievement has been tied to tests that are not equal in difficulty in all 50 states. In NYS our Regents exam, especially in Alg II/Trig Chem and Physics have become increasingly difficult. We are trying to deploy common core concepts at their most rigorous levels. As both a parent who has a daughter with severe anxiety disorders and a teacher I see the stress this plan has put on our young people. Some give up, a small percentage succeed. We should compare the testing in other states to NYS in terms of the level of difficulty. I am certain it is more difficult here. The top 20 percent will be very successful either way. This common core will make other students give up or not want to be in school. There are not enough choices in the core to allow students to seek their level and learn at their own rate. Teachers must prepare students for Regents and common core exams with a rigor that children in other states do not have. Do the comparisons what are we doing to NYS children. We must stop the madness evaluate what has been going on. I fear the future for children being educated in NYS"