

## **Joan Cirillo, Parent**

"I am a parent of a 9th grade special education student. With the advent of common core her school life has become much more difficult. Her future needs are not going to be met because of the necessity of meeting common core standards. She needs classes in keeping a check book, budgeting, and banking etc. 3 years of mandated math (in case she goes to college) is nothing but frustration and aggravation for her. Attending these classes makes her feel stupid and "less than". NYS has diminished her chances of successfully graduating from high school by constantly changing all of the graduation requirements. Why does my daughter have to take 5 regents exams? Memory is her biggest deficit - what chance does she have? It all seems terribly unfair for the special education student.

I am also an elementary reading specialist. Common Core at this level has had some devastating effects. It was implemented in the worst possible way. If these standards were to be successful, they should have been gradually introduced, one grade level per year. Many of the standards are developmentally inappropriate and need to be changed. Many children feel frustrated and angry because they don't feel like they can "keep up". Thankfully, the testing will be changing - but what about the children that had to sit for hours and hours taking unfair tests, with poor questions and some without good answers? I monitored a 3rd grade special education student, reading at a 1st grade level, trying to take a third grade ELA test. He literally was trying to pound his head on the desk and cried because he couldn't read it. This is what is good for our children? It made me embarrassed to be an educator, that day.

One of the most important changes to be made is get the government out of the discussion. They have no background, experience or knowledge of the education field. They should not be making decisions/rules/laws that impact our children, educators and future when they have no idea what they are talking about."