

## **Brian Connolly, Parent**

"Raising standards is a good idea. The rollout of Common Core in New York was a politically motivated disaster by our governor. In a callous act of pandering to edu-reformers with deep pockets he forced the adoption of these standards, forced them on children and teachers with little or no preparation while simultaneously tying them to evaluations designed to threaten and humiliate them. When the teachers union did not support his bid for re-election he punished it (because he's not a bully) with even more stringent and even more obtuse evaluations (because, as he says he "loves teachers"). So what is my input? Our governor is willing to strip our children of art, science, music, history, etc. so they can be drilled on math and ELA for hours every day, crushing their natural love of learning so that corporations like Pearson can be given multi-million dollar contracts so that edu-reformers donate to our governor's re-election campaign. He needs the money as he got a million less votes in his second attempt than in his first. The teacher evaluation system will soon implode due to the upcoming decision in the Lederman case, and thank god for that. Our new commissioner was fired from a lower post in Florida due to her exuberant use of testing there, her hiring here by Governor Cuomo, who loves teachers, is no surprise. His motivation for beginning this dialogue is also politically motivated as he realizes that his efforts have roused such a furious anger among parents that he looks like the bully that he is. This is his attempt to ameliorate that."