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"My son is currently in 4th grade and was born with a rare genetic syndrome, called Prader-Willi Syndrome. People with this syndrome typically have low-normal intelligence. Although academically he is learning at a first grade level for math & reading, he is mainstreamed for all other 4th grade specials/subjects (eg. science). There are many children with similar curriculums. Common core does not take into account these types of learners. There are no state standardized exams that test a child at their ACADEMIC age versus chronological. For example, if a 3rd grader takes the state test, but is academically at a 1st grade level what would the test scores tell you? Does this mean the child is not learning? Or a teacher is not teaching? Absolutely NOT! My child miraculously learned addition in 3rd grade (the 3rd grade state test was doing multiplication and division). This was a HUGE deal and major progress for our son, but it is completely unmeasurable in the current common core state testing. Children who learn at their own pace are not only left behind in common core, but they are prevented from moving forward in the NYS academic system. For example, if they do not learn algebra in high school, they cannot take and pass the math regents and will not graduate with a diploma that will allow entrance to college. Children who can learn concrete (versus abstract) facts, children who only excel in subjects such as science, social studies, music/art, etc.(subjects that NYS does not deem as important as algebra or literature) or children who learn at a much slower pace are Totally Left Behind in common core. What happened to "NO Child Left Behind"? The most egregious part of common core is that it is totally discriminating against children with special needs. What teacher would want a child with special needs in their classroom if that child's test scores will be so low (ie my 3rd grader forced to take 3rd grade level math exam who has only just learned 1st grade math) that it will pull down their score and potentially get them fired?? What happened to inclusion? How will this promote Least Restrictive Learning Environments? Teachers will feel threatened if special needs children are in their classroom as it may jeopardize their job security when those special children's test scores are low simply due to their delayed developmental learning! These children can learn and become productive members of our society. NYS should be ashamed for not providing the academic possibilities for their success and shutting them out of a right of passage, such as attending college. What happened to Free and APPROPRIATE education? Special needs individuals have the grit and hard work ethic necessary for life success. They have hopes and dreams just like everyone else. How does common core help people with learning challenges (especially language learning challenges such as infusing math problems with confusing wording versus using strict numbers) achieve their goals?"