

**Michael DeBlois, Teacher, Fayetteville Manlius CSD**

"Ok, let me cut right to the chase. I teach in the Fayetteville Manlius CSD. We are year after year the second best upstate school district behind Pittsford. The truth about CCLS - they are too hard! Simple as that. Last year at our high school we had a 5% mastery rate on the Algebra CC regents. Are you kidding me? Only 5% of kids at the best school get above an 85?? What must it have been like at rural and city schools?? The CCLS were brought in because colleges said we are sending them kids who need remediation. So what do we do? Instead of getting the kids to really know the basics (the old curriculum) we try to teach them even harder stuff!! What do they do? Shut down and drop out of school!!! A kid in the city of Syracuse whose parents both work minimum wage jobs has 0% chance of every grasping Algebra CC - its way too hard!! He or she is way too far behind the 8 ball to ever understand that kind of material! Too many topics, too tough of questions - the kids are not ready!! Not to mention the poor elementary school kids who cry because the ELA tests are so hard!! Do away with CCLS, go back to the basics and colleges will say the kids are ready AND if you need remediation you don't need to go to college! Be a plumber and charge \$90/hour!"