

Ann Marie Fitzpatrick, Parent

To the Selected Members of Governor Cuomo's Common Core Task Force,

My name is Ann Marie Fitzpatrick. I am a parent of three children and live on the North Shore of Long Island. My two older children are in high school, are typically developing and do well in school (they have not been fully exposed to Common Core). My youngest is in 8th grade and has had an IEP since preschool. He has been educated in a 12:1:1 self contained classroom since kindergarten. He needs lots of support but is well able to learn.

I am writing to ask that you recommend to NYS Education Department an expedited review of the standards so that children with disabilities and ELL's can be successful. Many of the standards expect children to express their thoughts in various forms, to see other's perspectives, to give opinions based on text read, make logical inference and most importantly it focuses on independence. As great as all this sounds, for a child with a language based disability these are extremely difficult. Each standard in itself is difficult. There may be fewer standards than in the past but each standard is so difficult students with disabilities cannot keep up and continue to fall further behind. They feel inadequate and stupid.

I ask that you adjust the standards to take into account children with disabilities. I ask that you better define "career readiness". It seems that you are only preparing students for blue collar careers. There are many other careers that should be explored. Common Core's note on range and content of student reading, "Grappling with works of exceptional craft" seems to be limited in scope to those who are good students.

Common Core Standards discriminate against students with disabilities. Common Core seems to be good for the select few. All children deserve a free and appropriate education.