

**Susanne Fitzgerald, Greater Johnstown School District BOE Member,  
Parent, and Spanish Teacher in the Gloversville Enlarged School District**

"Here are my issues with Common Core implementation:

1. The roll-out was irresponsible. It should have begun in first grade and rolled out every year with that cohort's move forward. "Building the plane while it's in the air" is unsafe, unprofessional, and unworthy of our children and professional educators.
2. The materials shoved down the throats of school districts by Engage NY, etc. were OFTEN filled with non-sensical errors and developmentally inappropriate questions and methodologies.
3. I watched my Senior Class son (all "4's" on math for years) excel in a pre-Common Core math world. I then watched my daughter (also all "4's", on Math Olympiad, etc.) suffer through what I can only call gross manipulation and experimentation as one of her scores was "re-calibrated" one year and she was almost a candidate for AIS. She now abhors math as an accelerated student in 9th grade. IN THE REAL WORLD, MOST WOULD BE FIRED FOR RECALIBRATING RESULTS TO BETTER SUIT POLITICAL NEEDS. Unless, of course, one is in charge of the company. It's disgusting to me that cut scores are not set BEFORE tests are graded. If you promise that 70% of children will fail an exam, correct the exam, and then set the cut score, is there really any surprise when that promise is fulfilled? As an educator, I'd probably be fired for doing something so unethical to my students. It's a set-up, it's unethical, and even more upsetting is the fact that our Governor and Chancellor have managed to tie APPR to this joke of a testing system. Could it be any more transparent that they want to break the teacher's union? Could the corporate deformed (purposeful misspelling there) be any more greedy? Could the charter school system be any more corrupt? I think not to all three. No sour grapes here, either. I've had APPR scores above 95% since it's idiotic implementation.

I remain disheartened, disillusioned, and disgusted with much of what is happening in our state in education. I also remain in my classroom and on my BOE because I see it as a calling to stay the course and be a force for REAL education in the lives of my children - those I bore and those in my care in school."