

Rodney Gurney, Teacher

What a mess. Never in my 20 years of teaching has morale and respect been driven so low. I am for the first time, to my behest, telling young people to stay out of teaching. A true leader knows he must lead by example to gain respect rather than command it. Politicians, our so called leaders, bloated with corruption and social embarrassment, rallied to back a system that has been honestly described by our own Superintendents, Principals and Teachers as inaccurate and confusing. I've caught myself laughing hysterically and then sadly, as I have described the new system of SLO to people out of teaching field, who exclaim. "That doesn't make sense, who came up with that?" Trying to substantiate the Governor's Edict and the decisions of New York's noted corrupt politicians, always leaves the conversation to stop abruptly and individuals with confused looks upon their faces.

Here's what makes New York great...

First, listen to lawmakers in Albany on the take, with their prosecution and criminal charges pending.

Second, influence the Governor with hundreds of thousands of dollars from a private test making company to fund his campaign.

Third, throw out a test from the same company with errors that embarrass all involved using a cutesy name like "pineapplegate".

Fourth, continue making changes and threats that some items are linked to pay for performance, so hysteria sets in for teachers who will be losing their jobs because they teach Social Studies and the kids did bad in ELA.

Fifth, make sure it becomes a Statewide outcry of absurdity and use taxpayer money to buy ads that the Educational system is moving forward with fair testing and evaluations for all.

Finally, announce the whole system is ineffective and spend more time and money to fix the mess in which you created...