

Maria Gargano, Teacher, Massapequa Public Schools

"While I am all for rigor and accountability, I believe the Common Core State Standards have failed our children. The Standards fail to recognize how an individual child's development impacts a child's learning. Remember Piaget? The standards also fail to address the needs of children who may have a handicapping condition and/or suffer from poverty. Sometimes a standard is appropriate for a particular group of children but the curriculum and/or materials are lacking.

Furthermore, the research indicates that there are far more superior ways to evaluate an educator. Basing a teacher's "score" on test scores is invalid as well as unethical. Teachers have no control over the many factors that influence a child's learning. Furthermore, teachers have no control over the test students must pass. Last year's test was flawed as it expected children to perform far above their developmental abilities.

I believe in working hard and I love my profession. I enjoy creating lessons for my students as well as finding ways to help my students succeed. However, my professional demands are taking over my life. I find myself working late nightly (7pm), bringing work home nightly and working 8-12 hours over the weekend as well. I cannot force the material into children who are not ready to receive it no matter how long or hard I work."