

David Hardesty, Parent

"I am a very concerned parent who is strongly against the Common Core Curriculum requirements. As a parent with two children with special needs I am experiencing the flaws and unfairness of the system. My son was fortunate enough to graduate in 2014 which was the last year before regents was a requirement to graduate and he is doing fantastic in college presently with a 3.2 GPA. Had he been required to get a regents diploma he may have never graduated from high school and who knows where he would be now?

Unfortunately we are not as fortunate with our fifteen year old daughter who has high functioning autism spectrum disorder and has been integrated in typical classrooms since kindergarten. She has always maintained an A or B average with some support. Now with the regents requirement for her to graduate she is barely passing her classes with hours of homework every night! It is making it nearly impossible for our daughter to ever receive a high school diploma or to fulfill her dream to go to college and become a Librarian. She is the most determined young lady her teachers know. Unfortunately the way these tests are so complex and the questions are not direct questions they confuse my daughter and even though she may know the correct answers she gets confused because of the way the questions are worded. Her biggest challenge is the algebra. My wife and I are no help to her with Bachelors Degrees and a successful business we cannot do her math! We have lived pretty well not ever needing to use such useless knowledge to get ahead in life.

This system is making it impossible for our daughter to graduate from high school due to her disability and I feel it is discriminating against all children who learn differently! This system needs to be changed starting with making the regents requirement optional not required to earn a high school diploma. This system is only going to encourage children like our daughter to drop out of high school because these exams are nearly impossible for her to pass. I am pleading with you to please change this unfair system before it ruins and alienates my daughter and all children with special needs lives forever!"