

## **Au Hogan, Parent**

"I am a district public school parent and grandparent from Jamaica, Queens. My children, grandchildren and I all went to New York City public schools.

I am here today because I believe that every child in this state deserves to have high standards in education.

Our education system has failed too many children, and the Common Core is critical to turning that around.

My grandson Dre is an example of a child who is being failed by our broken education system.

Dre's a good kid with a loving family that values learning. He's not an outlier. He's your regular, mainstream kid who this system should have no problem educating.

Dre wakes up each morning and goes to his district public school and day after day he gets 100s on his classroom work. But when it comes time to take the tests – you know, the ones that really tell you whether a kid is ready for the next grade – he gets zeroes. He is not being prepared for the future he deserves.

That's why the Common Core is so important – because it provides a guide for schools and teachers and parents to be able to make sure that our kids are learning what they need to learn.

The Common Core ensures that a school in Jamaica delivers the same high standards to our kids as schools in wealthier neighborhoods.

The Common Core ensures that our kids will have the skills they need to compete and succeed in college and beyond.

I respect and admire great teachers. Educators are entrusted with the responsibility of guiding entire generations of kids, which is why we have to make sure that every child has access to an effective teacher.

We owe our children a system that works for them and not against them.

If we don't hold the system up to higher standards by continually improving upon our schools and the teaching profession, we will continue to fail kids all across New York.

I am here today to represent the many parents and grandparents who believe our kids deserve the same access to effective teachers and high standards that kids in wealthy suburbs take for granted."