

**Lisa Izes, Parent of Public School Students, Irvington, NY**

I applaud Governor Cuomo's change in position about the importance of students' test scores on standardized tests to evaluate our teachers. It is my great hope that this position will win out. As diverse as our community of learners is, we should be trying to reach each student where s/he is and elevating each to new heights.

Teachers should not feel forced to "teach to the test" for fear of their jobs. This is a preposterous waste of precious school time. I hope there will be other metrics utilized to more accurately assess if they are helping their students learn new material and grow as human beings. The curriculum should not be limited to trying to outsmart test-question writers who are out of touch with what happens in individual classrooms.

In a connected vein...my children (who happen to be good test-takers) are already frustrated by having to show work in a certain way, when they can get to a correct answer of a problem in a simpler way. Teaching more than one math technique is great, but marking someone wrong because they don't answer as the teacher expects the test-grader to want it seems ridiculous. I hope we are moving in the right direction.