

## **Lorraine Khury, Teacher, NYC DOE**

I am a first year 4th grade general education teacher. Common Core is all I know in this field since I began my transition in 2012, right when the new standards were introduced. During my teacher training, I saw some pros and cons to it and honestly didn't think it was too bad. I've reflected today's education with my own experience as a student some years ago. Some of the kids who can perform to standards can definitely wow you! However, now with my own class, many with learning struggles and low reading levels, some of the expectations seem to be unrealistic. The CCSS caters to an audience of high maturity level, which can be difficult to expect from elementary school aged children. Moreover, the testing itself is totally unfair. As a teacher, we are trained to differentiate, yet all students are held to the same rigorous standards despite struggles or even classified learning disabilities. Our efforts to differentiate and the small victories are not shown through testing that are set up to challenge beyond age appropriate expectations.