

Mary C. Krembs, Parent

I have read the entire NYS Math Standards both before and after the switch to Common Core. I think the CC standards are excellent. There are three main problems however. (1) The way they were implemented. Given the extensive changes, there should have been a multi-year roll out so that students on the old standards would be supported to move into the new. Please do NOT repeat these same mistakes this time. If you make changes to the standards have a multi-year plan on how to roll them out. But do not make massive changes to the standards in reaction to uniformed parent complaints. Most parents that are complaining have never read the standards, and do not understand enough math to be able to intelligently discuss them. (2) The Engage NY scripts are awful and are destroying the good work of the new standards. You didn't give me enough characters to discuss all the problems within Engage NY. (3) Testing. The tests do not accurately assess the students knowledge of the standards. The excessive amount of testing is not necessary to determine if students have acquired competency in the standards. And the WORST offense of all is the way the tests are being graded. Students are being taught when they take the test, that there is only one way to solve problems because the people that grade these exams don't know enough to know that there are actually MANY correct ways to solve a problem. The Common Core stresses deep thinking and knowing all these ways, but then the people grading the tests don't know enough to assign partial credit for good ideas. The daily testing time in each subject should be age appropriate, and the total testing time should be as well. 3rd graders cannot sit for three days of 90 minute tests and demonstrate anything other than fatigue. Three days of 20 minutes? Sure. And middle schoolers are conditioned to focus for one-period at a time. If you must test them for three days, then three one-period blocks is the MOST you should expect. Be REAL please.