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I believe in raising the standards for my students. In fact, my students have worked harder than ever learning new concepts. There are several concerns about this, however. The Common Core was implemented with such haste that it left many gaps in students' understanding, especially in the area of math. At times, they are learning material so far beyond their developmental ability that the frustration level is palpable in the classroom. They have lost their love for learning because it has been replaced with such a fast paced level of rigor.

Furthermore, tying a teacher's evaluation to the score of one invalid test is a detriment to our education system. The only teachers that stand to lose their jobs are those tied to the State Assessments (Grade 4-8). Furthermore, the new standards in place by the State's requirement to the APPR nearly guarantee great teachers getting a score of ineffective. This is the most insulting and ludicrous piece of legislation I have ever seen. Judging a teacher based on one test on one day from children who have been told that this test means absolutely nothing for them is a shame.

As a mother, I fear for my children's future. We need to go back when elementary school was a fun, joyful place where students learned to be independent thinkers, problem solvers, could learn to interact with their peers, and actually learn at their own pace. Aren't those the skills necessary for students to be college and career ready?