Marina Kotovnikov, Parent

"There is too much emphasis on Common Core state testing in the classroom. I have 2 children in the school district, both who have done very well on these tests and academically in general. However, the hours of time spent (and money spent) on preparing and taking these tests (that were not even designed by educators), in my opinion, is wasteful, and benefiting no one (except the corporations that seem to be profiting from them). My 8 year old son (who is normally outgoing and free-spirited) suffered anxiety, stomach aches, head aches, and did not want to go to school because of the pressure of performing on these tests (where many questions are several grade levels above what the children are learning in the classroom and some questions that make no sense at all). The results of these tests do not show an accurate picture of who these children are as students or what they are capable of, intellectually. Our teachers need to be given the freedom and time to work with each student on their individual strengths and weaknesses. At our schools, the music and arts programs have been cut drastically, in part to pay for all this testing, and I feel that is detrimental to a child's education. Exposure to the arts has long been proven to have an immense impact on a child's ability to think creatively, express themselves articulately, and socially engage with their peers. Those should be our common goals for the future of our children."