

**Martha Lichtblau, Parent**

While I believe we need to make sure that tests are age appropriate and perhaps have less testing for ELL's and Special Education students, it is curious to me that the movement against testing coincided with the test scores being linked to teacher evaluations. For better or worse, our children will be tested throughout their lives and these tests will count. (SAT's, ACT's, Regents, LSAT's, MCAT's, Medical Boards, the Bar Exam to name a few) For us to send kids the message that it is okay to opt out of tests is a disservice to them; one because we are asking children to fight an adult battle and two because ultimately they will need to perform now and in the future. ultimately we wunfair to them. The rollout of the Common Core was not well thought out, but Common Core in and of itself is not a bad thing. Life is one giant evaluation. Once these kids hit the work force they will be expected to perform - be it through presentations, reports etc. It is our collective responsibility to make sure our kids are prepared for the challenges that lay ahead.