

Angela Lauria, Teacher, Gloversville Enlarged School District

"As many people are starting to realize (including President Obama), it is unfair to students for teachers to teach to a test. Yet, it is highly unlikely, nor is it fair to teachers, to ask us to stop teaching to a test when our jobs hang in the balance. I agree that our students should be more than a test score. However, it is difficult, nearly impossible, to ask teachers to teach beyond a test when the test is used to determine the continuation of their jobs.

I have LOVED teaching for 25 years. The last three have been more difficult and my love for the job is fading. I enjoy the subject that I teach, and I truly enjoy my 7th grade students. I am tired, however, of being public enemy number one in the governments' eyes. Most teachers work very hard and do the very best that they can for their students. It seems that this entire process in which teachers are being evaluated would not need to exist if administrators were doing their job; not granting tenure to teachers who prove to be inadequate prior to receiving tenure.

Also, the process for which teachers are judged is completely unjust. It's interesting that teachers who work in highly impoverished districts with high levels of special education students are expected to perform as well on state exams as are teachers who have students in more affluent districts, where parents are caring, concerned, and involved in their kids' education. Yet, teachers in subject areas other than math and ELA are judged on tests other than NYS exams and are privy to their test information prior to the test. Put succinctly, that means that they know exactly how to prepare their students for their tests, resulting in higher test scores. This is fair? It is interesting that notoriously math and ELA teachers, as well as special education teachers, who end up fairing poorly in the APPR process."