

Maribel Lupo, Teacher

"I work in a district with low income students. Not only are they coming from poverty, but they are immigrant children just entering the country, most without previous education. I have 11-12 year olds in fifth grade with no prior education. I have one year to teach them years worth of knowledge and the only thing they are usually confident with is math. Due to common core, I'm creating students who don't want to come to school and who never master a concept. Word problems are extremely confusing and wordy when they can barely write their names. We have taken all of their confidence and turned it into frustration. No one sees what I see, kids not being able to be kids and kids that suffer from anxiety because they are being setup to fail! They don't stand a chance. They constantly ask "why can't I do it my way?" The real answer.. Because I am forced to teach in a way that is not conducive to immigrant, poverty stricken children. It is a disservice to them and it frustrates me that I have no say in what is best for my students. No one knows them better than me. You can't hold these kids to the same standards as other children their age. They are not capable at this time of the standards they are being held to! Reconsider and see what you are doing to our kids...."