

Five years ago when Common Core was rolled out I was horrified that someone thought this was a good idea. The Governor has decided that TEACHERS WERE THE PROBLEM. So along with raising the Learning Standards, we have an APPR Teacher Evaluation system to eliminate the problem, teachers. Read the research. Linking Teacher Evaluation to test scores does not work.

CC was rolled out so fast, teachers had not even had a chance to see it, yet were required to teach it. My team got our first copy of Module 3 in Math in February, 3 months before the NYS tests. For the entire year I had been teaching another curriculum, yet students that year were to be given a NYS test based on CC. 70% of all 5<sup>th</sup> graders that year failed that NYS CC Math test. I had not taught the curriculum, yet students were required to take a test on it. I'm not even addressing ELA CC. It is a train wreck. Eliminate it and start over.

1. Field Test curriculum before implementation state wide and eliminate the developmentally inappropriate aspects. Teachers should help with this.
2. Eliminate inappropriate end of year testing. Kids do not need 9 hours of testing ever. Test kids in Math for 1 hour. Not 7, 8 or 9 hours. Developmentally inappropriate tests that stress kids out are wrong.
3. No ESL or SPECIAL EDUCATION students with identified LEARNING DISABILITIES should be required to take the same end of year exams AND need modified curriculum.
4. Make testing TRANSPARENT. Every test should be available to parents and teachers. Educators need to see the tests in order to analyze data. We cannot act as highly effective practitioners engaging in Reflective Practice if we cannot see or talk about the test.
5. Eliminate the GAG Order place on teachers. Demanding that ALL TEACHERS sign a document threatening us with termination of our jobs if we talk about the test is wrong. Do you want us engaging in Highly Effective Practice or not?

Take the handcuffs off the teachers. Insist the governor stop gunning for teachers. We did not create the problem. Work together to address the needs of the schools. The problem that is affecting schools in New York and all across this country can be expressed in one word. POVERTY. If you want all children to be successful in school and in life we as a nation need to address the problems in our society brought about by poverty. Leadership that is transformation brings honesty integrity to the process. Leaders who brow beat employees and threaten them daily are only adding to the problem. Anything you do should be shared with ALL and evaluated by teachers and parents. The secrecy needs to stop. Transparency is critical and you can start by opening up your website to invite all voices to express concerns. Have

the courage and integrity to listen to all comments, including the criticisms in order to do the job before you.