

**Georgine Meagher, Parent**

Public education in New York should be top rate so that we are educating the scholars, thinkers and innovators for the next century. A top rate education is holistic and nurtures the mind, body, soul and character of the student. The common core initiative is not the way to achieve our goals. Materials and methods must be appropriate to the age and developmental level of the student. Common core materials and testing place too much emphasis on rote learning and standardized testing. Children learn at different rates and in different styles. Teachers must have the freedom to teach every child without fear of retribution from administration because of testing results. Please abolish the common core initiative in NY. Please take corporate interests such as the Microsoft and Pearson out of our classrooms. Please respect teachers and let them do their jobs.