

Meghan, Teacher

I feel that the Common Core State Standards are a high-quality set of standards and should remain unchanged. We want our students to be able to think critically and apply skills they learn in school to post-secondary education and careers.

The NYS Tests need drastic change. The mathematics test is too heavily reading-based and therefore does not accurately represent a student's abilities in mathematical reasoning. Perhaps the test can be read aloud on cd or tape recorder to aid the students in this way- NOT only as an accommodation for students with IEPs or 504s, but for ALL students. The reading passages in the ELA test are too long, so many of my capable students do not finish the exam and score a 1, though their ability level far surpasses that ranking. The text is also often boring, or too specialized so students do not understand the content, especially English Language Learners. I would like to see more of a portfolio based assessment, with a rubric rather than multiple choice/essay. The format of the test needs to match what it is designed to assess- math should assess MATH, reading should assess READING comprehension and vocabulary development, and writing should assess WRITING. I feel that too many of these are intertwined and therefore not valid assessments of the students' abilities.

The heavy weight the NYS Tests bear on my APPR scores is also unfair. Students should not have that responsibility to determine whether I am effective based on a one-day assessment. However, with the development of more age-appropriate and valid tests, this may not be such an upsetting issue in the future. Thank you very much for taking the time to read our feedback. I hope to see major changes to the NYS Testing in the near future.