

## **Amy Mertson, Teacher, Union Endicott High School**

I teach High School mathematics. We have students who have done poorly for years, failing 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade math. These students show up in 9th grade absolutely unable to work at a passing level. These students now have to pass a Common Core regents exam that is so far beyond their ability it's seemingly impossible. There is no "opt out" of a regents exam. These students are failing and eventually will not graduate. What is the state going to do when massive amounts of students don't graduate due to failure of an exit exam?

I remember thinking Common Core will be great. We will teach less topics and do a better job. That is absolutely NOT true. We are teaching Math 12/Pre-Calculus even AP Stats topics in 11th grade (Algebra II). We cannot keep up this pace. Children are burning out too quickly. The math is above their ability. They are getting discouraged to the point of quitting math. Believe me, we do everything we can as educators to make it happen but when the test is based on standards NOT curriculum we aren't even sure we are doing the right thing.

I have 20 years experience and I have never been so upset at my ability to do a good job. I work for HOURS after school trying to come up with what I think is a good lesson. I use the modules as a guide. I use the only textbook out there and it's just not enough. Teachers don't have enough information. We aren't sure what topics are to be taught or how deep to cover something. Why weren't teachers given a curriculum? An outline? Something other than the over 1000 pages of module materials, some of which are written at a college level.

Please lets edit the Common Core and give our HS students a fair chance. There are just too many topics to cover in 1 school year.

Thank you.