

## **Allison Noonan, Parent**

As a parent of two 6th grade children whose education has been hijacked by the Common Core "standards" and one who has also been an outspoken critic of these "standards" as well as the emphasis on high-stakes testing that has gone hand-in-hand with their botched implementation, I am compelled to address your recent editorial in our local paper.

You state the "current Common Core program in New York is not working". Could it be because the Common Core has never had one K-12 educator involved in the development of the program? Could it be because family and home life have a far greater effect on student test scores than teachers do? Could it be because administering developmentally inappropriate tests that subsequently label our children as "failures" might not be in our children's best interests? Could it be it is only now, after tens of thousands of us participated in forums across the state, wrote letters to our representatives, even petitioned our Regents only to have our concerns fall on deaf ears, and because we felt so disenfranchised we were left with little choice but to collectively opt our children out of these tests--which ultimately rendered the results statistically unreliable--that only now you have been forced to admit the program is "deeply flawed"? How can you claim that the current program is broken yet still insist on evaluating our children's teachers based on flawed test results?

I am hopeful concerned parents and educators across the state will welcome your suggestion for an Education Commission that promises to include us. However, we must also have an open and honest discussion of where the current push for education reform has been coming from. The current reform agenda, wholeheartedly embraced by you and your administration up until this editorial was written, has never been about parents and children asking for changes; it has been the result of a few billionaire hedge-funders' willingness to sacrifice our children's education, health and well-being for their profit. As constituents we hold you and our legislators, not the State Education Department, responsible for this.

Stop field testing questions on our children. Stop giving our children tests that are not developmentally appropriate. Stop failing our students with special needs. Stop evaluating teachers based on flawed data.

Public education is the foundation of democracy. Stop destroying it.