

Jennifer Nepo, Parent

"The roll out of the common core testing in NY state has been a complete failure. The premise behind common core is not a bad one, but the rigor of the tests far exceed the standards of any other state. The reading level of the ELA test and the purposefully, tricky wording used in both the ELA and Math assessments are not testing the grasp of grade level concepts. NYS has an excellent education system as a whole, yet if you look at the percentage of students not meeting grade level by the recent common core tests is frighteningly high - AND I WOULD ARGUE, NOT AN ACCURATE ASSESSMENT. I understand that the tests will be written by a different company and that changes will be made in terms of the length of the exams. I URGE YOU TO INVOLVE EDUCATORS AT EACH GRADE LEVEL WHEN WRITING AND EVALUATING THESE NEW TESTS. I, and every other parent, will be looking carefully at the revised test. If it does not meet our expectations, I expect the number of students opting out to drastically increase. We may give second chances, but don't expect a third shot at this. Lastly, parents and educators do not see the necessity of linking teacher evaluations with their students' performance on a single test. WE ALL WISH THE KIDS SPENT TIME LEARNING RATHER THAN FOCUSING ON PREPARING FOR A TEST. So far, NYS has given the schools no choice, but to spend time prepping the students for these tests. NO ONE BENEFITS FROM THIS MODEL. I hope you consider the input of teachers, parents, and administrators as you determine the format and content of the next test."