

Patti, Parent

All I know is that I am VERY unhappy about the amount of time my kids have spent "studying" Islam. I have had to spend many evening setting them straight. I also think that NYS making graduation requirements challenging is a good thing...for students who are good students. But as a parent, and a teacher, I know that all kids DO NOT LEARN ALIKE or at the same pace. So why, on God's green Earth do we expect ALL kids to meet these high standards? I have 3 boys. The youngest is doing just fine (11th grade) My oldest (at 19) I ended up pulling out of school and he is finishing HS at home online...him trying to pass spanish and 3 math classes was not happening EVER. As for the middle son, who is 17 AND IN THE 9th GRADE...he's going to end up either dropping out, or end up going on online route as well. He's simply not a good student, at 17 he doesn't see WHY he needs to know "this stuff" and he has no intention of putting forth more than the minimum of effort. So why WHY do we not have multiple pathways to graduation? WHY do we not have more BOCES type programs? WHY is it nearly impossible to even GET your kid into these programs without an IEP? IT MAKES NO SENSE. Higher standards are fine, but TWO out of my THREE children are potentially not going to graduate BECAUSE of the standards. i know (and I am a teacher, who went to school in the '80's) that the local route was the only way I GOT out of HS. I finally came into my own around age 22 and started to do well in college, but if I had to pass all the math and languages that were required for a Regents diploma I wouldn't have graduated either.