

Marc Rinow, Parent

I feel that the new policies that are attached to the Common Core are unreasonable. The Common Core as a student to think differently about the solution. I understand this concept but in rote mathematics I feel this is dangerous. I also worry about the future citizen and what the work force will look like. I feel that the students should be taught a base before you can ask them to use those skills. When it comes to ELA I feel we are equally wrong doing our children with topics that they are not prepared for. I understand the attempt to ask the students to look at real world problems, but I also feel that you are asking the students to look at issues that they are not prepared to examine. NYS had an educational system that was set up in a spiral manner, each year adding to the base. Asking a seventh grader to read a book such as "A Long Walk to Water" gives the students a book that they have no understanding of the context. If you were under the old system the ELA teacher could work with the History teacher to teach the context of the topic together. With this book that is impossible. A seventh grade teacher for American History teaches American history not African history. This book seems more appropriate for 9th or 10th grade when the students learn about world history.

I have two students in school and I have seen big changes in my older child's education. She is not having fun at school. I do not sit here as say that school should be fun, but I do feel that she should like to go to school. I saw the change occur when the teachers became more afraid of the test and their jobs. I feel for these people. Some people have had a bad teacher in this world, but I would saw every person has had a teacher impact their lives. Taking out enrichment activities to teach to the test is not what make this country great it makes us like China. I as a parent would rather be a part of the greatest country in the world, a country that leads. Not a country that mass produces. That pays less than minimum wage.

I feel that my state has wronged my children in Math, ELA, and History. It angers me to look at why. I keep coming back to one question. Why are my children becoming a political game?