

## **Daniel Romeo**

I have a number of issues with Common Core but many of the people here have covered a lot of those issues. One week ago tonight I was elected the Syracuse City School District Board of Education but tonight I am only representing myself. I ran for the school board to support education support teachers and support our children. The SCSD faces a number of unique challenges. Over 50% of our students live in poverty. We are an epicenter for refugees and many of those students are working very hard to learn the English language but as an example there was a third grade student who just arrived in the United States from Burma and his first day of school happened to be the first day of state testing and he had to take the test. I don't think his score truly reflects that teachers abilities. Like many other districts we are underfunded and working very hard to do what is best for our children. However there is only so much that we can do. Tying student test scores to effectiveness of teachers and districts has put underfunded urban schools under attack.

Personal story: My nephew is severely disabled and he has a wonderful teacher that is great to him and for him. Unfortunately like others in his class, my nephew will never be able to take a test. Because of this she will never be viewed as highly effective. This is a terrible representation of someone who truly makes a difference in this world.