

**Charles Russo, Administrator, East Moriches UFSD**

"I am supportive of the Common Core Standards and higher standards for all students. The District that I am work in has had very good success with the NYS ELA and mathematics curriculum (domains and modules). They are not perfect, but they are still very good. Throughout the past five years, the faculty and administration have worked hard to make them fit our needs for our students. The main obstacle that we have had to overcome is the continuous threat that the APPR system has created and the rapid increased "cut" scores. Any system needs time to change that is supported by an environment that allows taking risks and trying out new ideas. The way that New York State government has approach these changes has created the stress and backlash that we are experiencing. I have recommended now and throughout the past five years to slow down. Allow teachers and administrators to work on increasing standards without the threat of losing State Aid and using the test scores to evaluate teachers. Create a strong curriculum that is implemented consistently throughout the State. Once that is achieved, you can increase the assessment demands."