

Duane Smith, Administrator, Byram Hills CSD

"I work with teachers in a 6-12 ELA department. Our initial "unpacking" of the standards certainly demonstrated the wealth of standards-based opportunities that we need to provide students. The standards, themselves, present teachers with numerous challenges--I view this as a good thing--in the classroom. Unfortunately, the Common core standards that appear on ELA examinations and the "new" Regents exam represent only a portion of the overall document. Speaking and listening standards, though an integral part of the ELA classroom, do not even show up on the state test. The fact that these exams are now tied to teacher evaluation is preposterous. Fifty percent of a teacher's evaluation should not be based on how students perform on a timed (i.e. anxiety-producing) exam that only measures a portion of the overall standards."