

Jessica Weinberg, Teacher, South Country Central School District

"I work with English language learners in a K-3 building. I am a big advocate of having higher expectations, of preparing my students for a successful future, and for making sure that their education is meaningful and progressive. I am also interested in creating students who can problem solve in social situations, who feel confident about themselves as people and as learners, students who enjoy coming to school and expanding their minds, children who want to make a difference in this world. The CCLS allow plenty of opportunity for academic growth, but zero opportunity to give children the chance to learn how to be a functioning human in today's society. As adults, those of us who know how to relate to people empathetically and emotionally, those of us with a greater sense of worldliness will be much more successful than someone who knows how to solve a math problem several different ways. We need to make these standards challenging AND appropriate, while giving good teachers the ability to TEACH their students."