

### **Tami Zepnick-Holzhueter, Parent, Rhinebeck High School**

I do not support Common Core. I believe all children have different learning styles and Common Core prohibits differentiation because students are required to pass STANDARDIZED tests for graduation. We moved from Illinois a year ago when my special education son was entering his junior year. Because he was required to pass 4 Regent exams (exempt from Global) to earn his diploma, we had to send him to an alternative HS (BOCES) for instruction. The environment there (self-study out of textbooks with very little teaching) is completely opposite to the environment that he thrives in (hands-on, small group, and/or lectures with fill-in notes.) Our son was excelling in the cross category program at his former HS and was on track to graduate in four years - including work experience during his Senior year. At BOCES, he is not experiencing a "typical" HS life and is going to take at least an additional year (maybe two) to finish his coursework. He luckily "passed" both the English and Algebra Regents (55%), but we hired a private tutor four days a week to get him through. The tutoring was strictly just teaching to pass the test, not to increase his knowledge.

I encourage you to teach to each student's strengths and learning styles and to do away with Common Core and standardized testing.