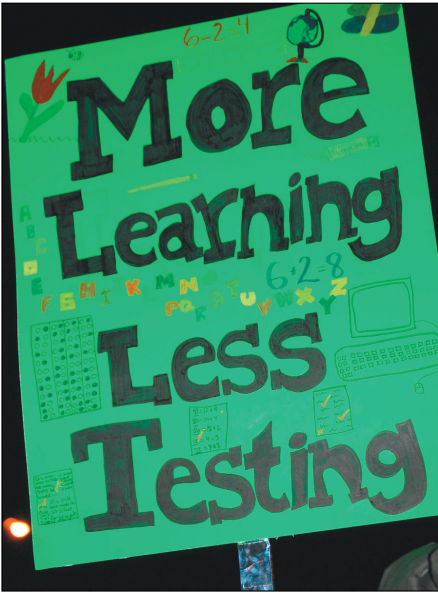


# Did You Know?



- You have the right to refuse the New York State (NYS) Common Core Tests in grades 3-8, being administered in April.

- A focus on state test scores means untested subjects such as art, music, social studies, science and physical education are limited or cut.

- You, your child and teacher do not get specific results from the tests, so they do not assist your child's learning. The Common Core Tests do not provide useful information for developing your child's strengths and meeting their needs.

- Buffalo will NOT lose money if there are high OPT OUT numbers. Beware of empty threats. No school district has lost a single dollar due to students and parents REFUSING STATE TESTS.

- Students will sit for 9 hours of testing and some English Language Learners and special education students could be subjected to 18 hours of testing. Both are longer than the state bar exam for lawyers.

- State takeover of schools — Receivership — will continue to exist, with students and schools, which are mainly minority and impoverished, branded as failures. Schools are kept and put in receivership based mainly on the flawed state test scores. Buffalo still has 25 such schools, with 20 remaining in receivership after June 2016.

- Teachers in receivership schools in Buffalo can be involuntarily transferred at any time, for basically any reason, and these transfers are starting now.

- The Governor's Common Core Task Force determined that state tests need an "overhaul" and should not be used to assess students or teachers. Yet students who do not REFUSE will take these same flawed tests. A private company, Pearson, not educators, created these tests and is getting paid tens of millions that could go to music and physical education.

- Refusing the Tests is one way to show lawmakers that students, teachers and parents are standing together to raise the quality of education and defend the Equal Right to Education for All. And that is why hundreds of thousands statewide REFUSE STATE TESTS.

**Ask your parent facilitator or teachers for information and letters to refuse the tests or visit: [www.wnyforpubliced.com](http://www.wnyforpubliced.com)**

# Teaching to the State Test *or Teaching the Whole Child?*

***The Choice is Yours***

**Community Forum on  
Common Core State Testing  
and Curriculum**

***Merriweather Library (Jefferson & Utica)  
11am • Saturday, April 2, 2016***

**Come hear Principal Jamaal Bowman,** of Cornerstone Academy for Social Action (CASA) in the Bronx. He has positive experience teaching to the whole child and not to the tests and the impact this has on classroom learning and the emotional, physical and academic development of children.

He will discuss the Common Core state testing for 3-8 graders, taking place April 5-7 for English and April 13-15 for Math. He will address their impact on learning and teaching. For example, in Buffalo, 100% of students in music programs have graduated in the last two years. Yet subjects impacting the whole child, like music, art, physical education and social studies, are cut in favor of time to prepare for and take the state tests.

***Mr. Bowman will speak to the right of parents to refuse state testing for their children.***



He will also speak to false claims being made that parents cannot make such a choice, that it will harm their schools, put them in receivership, etc.

Come find out about state testing and have your concerns and questions addressed by a principal with sixteen years experience, seven as a principal addressing the needs of the whole child. His students are successful as human beings.

**Make an informed decision about opting your child out of state testing.**

*Supported by: Buffalo Parents, Teachers and Clergy*