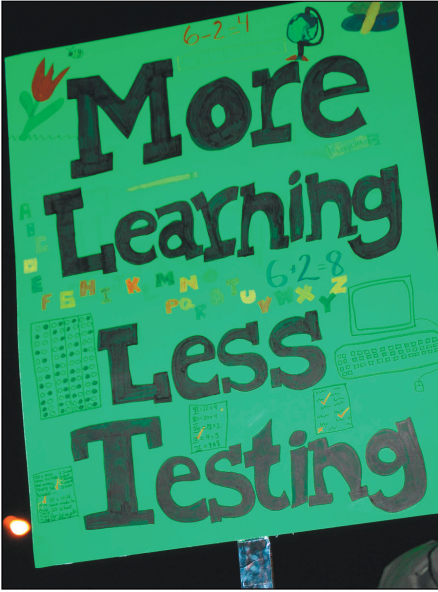


Did You Know?



- You have the right to refuse the New York State (NYS) Common Core Tests in grades 3-8, being given April 5-7 for English and April 13-15 for math. Sign the letter on the back on give it to your principal.

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

- Parents, students and teachers do not get specific results from the Common Core tests, so they do not assist a student's learning. The tests do not provide useful information for developing the student'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 or more 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. Libraries and computer labs used for testing are not available to other students during testing

- By law, NYS Common Core test scores in grades 3-8 cannot be used as the sole or primary basis for placement decisions. Students who opt out should not be punished for doing so.

- The Governor's Common Core Task Force determined that state tests need an "overhaul" and should not be used to assess students or teachers. NY Board of Regents Chancellor Rosa said, "I would opt out."

- A private company, Pearson, not educators, created these tests and is getting paid tens of millions of dollars that could go to music and physical education. Most educators do not support the Common Core standards or tests.

- 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 15 remaining in receivership after June 2016, These schools can be can be privatized.

- 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
or visit: www.wnyforpubliced.com • testing hotline 716-602-8077**

PARENTS AND STUDENTS: YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE NEW YORK STATE COMMON CORE TESTING

NEW YORK BOARD OF REGENTS CHANCELLOR ROSA SAID, "I WOULD OPT OUT."
IF YOU WANT TO EXERCISE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE THE STATE TESTS, CHECK THE
PLACES BELOW FOR EACH TEST, HAVE A PARENT SIGN THE LETTER AND TURN IT IN TO
YOUR SCHOOL'S PRINCIPAL.

2015-2016 NEW YORK STATE REFUSAL LETTER

Student: _____

School: _____

Teacher: _____

Grade: _____

Dear Principal _____,

We are writing today to formally inform the district of our decision to refuse to allow our child

_____ to participate in:

_____ the 2016 New York State grade 3-8 ELA test

_____ the 2016 New York State grade 3-8 Math test

_____ any stand alone 2016 New York State benchmark tests (such as SLOs, post-tests, etc.)

We thank you for your cooperation, very much appreciate our teachers and administrators, and ask that our child be given a chance to read or study during testing time.

Sincerely, _____