

Why **OPT OUT** in 2020?

CHRONIC INEQUITABLE FUNDING CONTINUES: New York's public schools are still owed billions of dollars. More than anything, test scores are a reflection of income level. Until all schools are fully funded, and all schools have access to equitable learning opportunities, the scores are meaningless at best and at worst, harm the most under resourced and underserved communities.

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TEST-BASED ACCOUNTABILITY LEADS TO FLAWED EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES: Schools are pressured to devote the majority of instructional time to tested subjects, leaving little time for the arts, history, and science. Despite a large body of research supporting physical movement and unstructured play, most children in NYS receive less than 20 minutes of recess.

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TEST SCORES ARE STILL USED TO RANK, SORT, AND PUNISH SCHOOLS: Despite the fact that test scores are a reflection of income level and resource availability, the scores continue to be used as one of the primary factors to punish chronically underfunded schools and make them vulnerable to privatization or closure through the State's receivership law.

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS & STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES CONTINUE TO BE INAPPROPRIATELY ASSESSED: English language learners are forced to take the lengthy and developmentally inappropriate NYS created NYSESLAT in addition to the NYS math and ELA test. Many students with disabilities are compelled to take grade level assessments that are not aligned with their instructional level.

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THE NEXT GENERATION LEARNING STANDARDS ARE A REBRANDING OF THE COMMON CORE: In general, changes to the standards are minimal. Students are still being taught from materials, workbooks, and textbooks, aligned to the common core.

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SAT-ALIGNED "CAREER AND COLLEGE READY" BENCHMARKS ARE STILL DESIGNED TO FAIL STUDENTS: NYS has yet to revise its flawed career and college ready benchmarks, the metric used to determine proficiency on State tests. This means that thousands of students will continue to be misidentified as failing.

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STATE TESTS WILL SERVE AS THE VEHICLE FOR CORPORATE DIGITAL LEARNING PLATFORMS, DATA MINING, AND PRIVATIZATION: For-profit and digital "personalized" learning platforms are taking hold in our schools. These platforms put the privacy of student data at even greater risk while allowing ed-tech investors to profit off of the backs of children and undermine public schools.

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HIGH-STAKES TESTING DIMINISHES RACIAL EQUITY IN SCHOOLS: High stakes testing exacerbates the negative outcomes associated with school segregation and upholds a system of economically and racially homogenous schools. High-stakes test-based accountability allows policy makers to escape responsibility for policies that do nothing to improve economic, housing, and legal policies that disproportionately harm communities of color.

Remember...

***THERE IS NO MECHANISM FOR ANY SCHOOL TO LOSE FUNDING DUE TO OPTING OUT EITHER ON THE STATE OR FEDERAL LEVEL. IF YOU ARE TOLD OTHERWISE, ASK FOR THE SPECIFIC REGULATION, LAW, OR STATUTE IN WRITING.**

***STATE LAW PROHIBITS USING STATE TEST SCORES OR REFUSAL AS THE PRIMARY FACTOR FOR DETERMINING PLACEMENT AND PROMOTION DECISIONS INCLUDING MIDDLE AND HS ADMISSIONS AND HONORS PROGRAMS.**

