

Hello 6th grade parents—

We are fellow 6th grade parents writing in the hopes of beginning a conversation about the state English (ELA) and Math tests that will be administered beginning (date).

Our hope is that enough parents will boycott the tests to force the New York State Department of Education (NYSED) to reconsider the system of testing that strangles public schools throughout the State.\* We feel a responsibility to push forward with test refusal, as we listen to our friends' stories of their children weighed down by test prep packets, and teachers pressured to teach in the narrowest of ways in a bid to raise scores.

We do know that there are a lot of questions raised by all this. Here's a stab at answering a few that might come up:

**+*What happens on testing days at (name of school)?*** If the number of children refusing is as high as it was in previous years, one classroom will be set aside for test takers. The rest of the students will continue to engage in meaningful learning in their classrooms. No homework will be assigned.

**+*How will my child's promotion to 7th grade be affected?*** Whether you take or refuse the test, 7th grade promotion is not affected.

**+*What about high school admissions?*** High schools do not require the State tests either because they have their own (Bard, the specialized high schools like Stuyvesant, etc.) or because they substitute grades for scores when students don't have a score, for whatever reason. At any rate, **no high school that we know of uses 6th grade test scores for their 9th grade admissions** process. And because the test changes from year to year, this year's test is not meaningful "practice" for next year's test.

Thank you for reading this. We realize that there are many more concerns raised by the testing and we are happy to talk more. We have all opted our children out of the State tests before, having deeply considered the issues. If you are comfortable, please "reply all" with any questions you have or points you'd like to add, that way we can all benefit from the discussion. You can also contact us directly (see contacts below). We can compile any questions for administration and get back to you with answers.

Opting out of the tests is easy. We have attached a letter to print and sign, you can scan it or snap a picture of it to email, or draft your own email stating your intentions. Address the email to your child's teacher and/or AP (email address)

We've also listed links to more information.

Please, continue the conversation!

Best,

Name (mother of C in 601): [Contact info](#)

Name, (mother of A in 601): [contact info](#)

Name, (mother of I in 602): [contact info](#)

\*Annual testing is currently mandated by the federal government, but states have the power to shape what that testing looks like. (For example, NY could significantly shorten tests if it chose.)