

2018-2019 NYS Test Refusal Letter

Student:

School:

Teacher:

Grade:

Date:

Dear _____,

We are writing today to formally inform the district of our decision to refuse to allow our child _____, to participate in:

_____ the 2019 New York State grade 3-8 ELA assessment

_____ the 2019 New York State grade 3-8 math assessment

_____ any stand-alone New York State field testing in the 2018/19 school year (grades 3-12)

_____ any local/benchmark assessment administered in the fall, winter, and spring (may include STAR, AIMSweb, I-Ready, Achieve3000, MAP/NWEA, SLO's) in the 2018/19 school year (grades k-12) (excluding spring 2019 middle school local assessments being used as a final grade)

_____ the 2019 grade 4 New York State science assessment

_____ the 2019 grade 8 New York State science assessment

_____ any "formal" practice test (timed or staged to imitate the actual testing day) or alternative assessments given only to test refusal students on the day of testing.

Our refusal should in no way reflect on the teachers, administration, or school board. This was not an easy decision for us, but we feel that we have no other choice. We simply see these tests as harmful, expensive, and a waste of time and valuable resources.

We refuse to allow any data to be used for purposes other than the individual teacher's own formative or cumulative assessment. We are opposed to assessments whose data is used to determine school ranking, teacher effectiveness, or any other purpose other than for the individual classroom teacher's own use to improve his or her instruction.

We believe in and trust our highly qualified and dedicated teachers and administrators, and the quality of teaching and learning that occur in our child's school. We hope our efforts will be understood in the context in which they are intended: to support the quality of instruction promoted by the school, and to advocate for what is best for all children.

We are aware that the federal ESSA law has reinforced our parental rights to refuse participation and does not allow for the withholding of federal title 1 funding for participation rates that fall below 95%. We do apologize in advance for the inconvenience or scrutiny that this decision may cause the administration, the school, and staff.

Sincerely,