

NYS Allies for Public Education is a coalition of over 50 grassroots groups committed to reclaiming the promise of public education in NYS.



Did You Know?

- In 2015, over 220,000 students refused the NYS tests in grades 3-8. It is predicted that next year this number will double.
- The NYS Common Core assessments do NOT yield useful information that can be used to address your child's individual needs and strengths.
- A focus on state test scores de-emphasizes untested subjects such as art, music, science, and social studies and makes it more difficult for a teacher to meet the needs of both high performing and struggling students.
- According to NYS law, Common Core test scores may not be used as the sole or even the majority basis of placement decisions.
- If your child does not take the NYS Common Core tests in grades 3-8, he or she may NOT be denied access to enrichment or academic support services.
- If large numbers of students opt out, teachers and schools will not be negatively impacted.
- In August 2015, both Governor Cuomo and Board of Regents Chancellor Merry! Tisch confirmed that school districts with high numbers of opt outs will not be financially sanctioned. To date, no school in the nation has lost federal funds due to high numbers of test refusals.
- The Common Core Learning Standards have never been piloted or tested. They are a set of copyrighted, experimental learning standards that carry a liability waiver and have not been shown to improve academic achievement.
- Despite parent outcry over the emphasis on high-stakes test scores, Governor Cuomo and the NYS Legislature have doubled down on the use of test scores to evaluate teachers and schools. Test scores are now 50%.
- Since the implementation of the Common Core and test based accountability in NY the achievement gap has grown. Students of color, special education students, students living in poverty, and English language learners have been disproportionately labeled as failing and discriminatory test scores are used to punish and close schools that serve the most vulnerable students.
- After producing flawed and developmentally inappropriate assessments for NYS, Pearson's contract with NYS was not renewed. However, in 2016 Pearson will once again produce NYS assessments in grades 3-8.
- New York State has contracted with Questar Inc to produce future NYS assessments in grades 3-8 despite the fact that Questar has never before produced this type of state assessment. Once again NY public school students will be the subjects of a high-stakes experiment.
- Refusing NYS Common Core tests in grades 3-8 on the first day of school is our best chance of eliminating test prep and test driven education in this year's classrooms.
- Educators and officials overwhelmingly agree that parents have the right to decide to refuse tests on behalf of their children even if that decision goes against school advice.



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