

Dear _____ District,
I, _____ would like to thank you for all you do for
_____, and our school.

I am writing to respectfully and formally inform you and this district of our decision to “opt out” of the Common Core Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) and/or Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) test(s) and testing that has been imposed on children across the state. Our refusal to allow our child to participate in the test(s)/testing should not reflect negatively on our child, on ANY teacher, the administration or on the school board. While we understand that the district is legally required to administer these tests, we have determined that the Common Core Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) and/or Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) Test(s) is/are grossly excessive, poorly designed, and punitive to students, teachers and our schools.

Under our guardianship and advice, will be scored as a “refusal”. Please note that a “refusal” is not the same as “absent” as they are defined differently. As such, my child will NOT be required to participate in the makeup tests for students who were “absent” during the designated administration dates.

I would ask that the school please provide (and fellow classmates who have been “opted out” by their parents) with an alternative activity during the administrative sessions of testing (not makeup, as my child will be in her regular classroom during make up tests). However, I understand that an alternative activity is not required on the part of the school. If you are unable to provide her with an alternate activity, I would ask that you utilize the provision of the Testing Program Educator Guide to the Common Core which explains “When Students Have Completed their tests.... That student may be permitted to read silently”.

This decision was not easy for us, but we feel that we have no other choice. We know that (under the Department of Education – Chapter 48, Subchapter 1 – General Provisions of the United States Code, 2011) “parents have the primary responsibility for the education of their children, and States, localities, and private institutions have the primary responsibility for supporting that parental role”. We have also found that the U.S. Supreme Court criticized a state legislature for trying to interfere with “the

power of parents to control the education of their own” (Meyer v. Nebraska, 262 U.S. 390, 401 (1923)). In other words, the Supreme Court recognizes that it is the right of parents to raise their children free from unreasonable state interferences. It is one of the unwritten liberties protected by the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

We believe in our child, the teachers and administrators.

We believe in standards and assessments.

We **STRONGLY** believe in public education, and the high quality of teaching and learning that occur in the school system.

But we do **NOT** believe that private companies, like Pearson, have the best interest of our children.

We do **NOT** believe in high stakes standardized testing.

Most importantly we **DO** believe that the current implementation of high stakes testing and the Common Core Standards will create a tremendous financial burden, bankrupt and destroy public education. High stakes testing has already polluted our classrooms with test preparation and Common Core Standards that are not developmentally appropriate.

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 our child, and all children. We are making a stand against this testing fad, and more importantly, the corporate and government takeover of our schools. It is our hope that our district will soon have resolution in place similar to those of districts across New York, denouncing these assessments. Our schools will not suffer when these tests are gone, they will flourish.

We do apologize in advance for any inconvenience or scrutiny that this decision may cause the administration, the school and staff. Again, we thank you for all you do for and your leadership.

Thank you very much. We look forward to a great end of the school year.

Sincerely,

Parent's name _____

Parent's signature _____

Child Name _____

School District _____

School _____

Date _____