

## The “Pros and Cons” of Refusing the NYS Assessments: A Response to “Why Refuse?”

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Why Refuse the Tests	Why Participate in the Tests
Because these tests have no value for our children.	The 3–8 English Language Arts and Mathematics New York State Testing Program (NYSTP) was redesigned to measure student learning aligned with the instructional shifts necessitated by the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS). The purpose of the CCLS is to ensure that all schools prepare students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in post-secondary education and in their future careers. In order to assess whether or not schools are adequately preparing students for their future, NYS assesses all grades 3-8 students in ELA and Math and measures school districts based on their students’ performance on these tests.
Because the heavy emphasis on teaching to the test denies our children opportunities for authentic learning.	It is true that our teachers are providing instruction based on the new learning standards; but the purpose of that instruction is not simply to “get the children ready” for state tests, but to prepare them for their future success as learners, workers, and global citizens. A guaranteed state-wide curriculum that is assessed in a standardized manner is the best way to ensure that all students have access to quality instruction.
Because these tests are flawed.	There is no perfect assessment that will guarantee success for every student. Some children will do very well and others will struggle on these tests. That does not mean, however that the tests are flawed. The New York State Education Department (NYSED) is constantly working to improve the assessments. Based on feedback from parents and educators, this year’s Grades 3-8 assessments have been shortened and now include less testing session, less questions, and the opportunity for students to complete

	<p>each test section without stressful time limits. In addition, there has been additional teacher involvement in test construction, there is less field testing of questions, and computer-based testing is available to districts that wish to administer the assessments online.</p>
<p>Because these tests do not affect your child's classroom grades or any services your child receives.</p>	<p>It is true that teachers do not include students' performance on the NYS Grades 3-8 ELA and Math assessments as part of their report card grades. However, the state tests are one of the multiple measures used to determine whether or not a student is in need of Academic Intervention Services (AIS). As required by NYSED, "students performing below the median scale score between a level 2/partially proficient and a Level 3/proficient on a grade 3-8 English language arts (ELA) or mathematics state assessment shall be considered for AIS. Upon identification of a student for consideration for AIS, districts shall then use a district-developed procedure, to be applied uniformly at each grade level, for determining which students shall receive AIS. After the district considers a student's scores on multiple measures of student performance, the district determines whether the student is required to receive AIS."</p>
<p>Because these tests are being used to collect a staggering amount of detailed data on your child without your consent.</p>	<p>NYSED has been assessing students, schools, and school districts for many years, using state tests to determine whether or not schools are providing quality instruction to our students. Only recently has data privacy become an issue associated with these standardized tests. As posted on NYSED.gov at <a href="http://www.nysed.gov/student-data-privacy/students/student-data-privacy-education-law">http://www.nysed.gov/student-data-privacy/students/student-data-privacy-education-law</a> , NYSED is "committed to promoting the least intrusive data collection policies practicable that advance the goals of improving academic achievement, empowering parents with information and advancing efficient and effective school operations while minimizing the collection and transmission of personally identifiable information"</p>

