



Freeport Teachers Association

30 South Ocean Avenue Suite 305
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(516) 442-0373
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www.freeportteachers.org

March 28, 2018

Dear Freeport Community Member,

Given the recent attempts by the Freeport Public Schools to discourage parents from opting their child(ren) out of State examinations in grades 3 – 8, and given the false narrative about these tests somehow being valuable for your child(ren), we would like to set the record straight.

The District does not have the right to prevent you from opting your child(ren) out of the state tests in grade 3-8. The Freeport Teachers Association fully supports the right of parents to OPT-OUT their children from taking state exams in grades 3 to 8 in ELA and Math.

- These tests cannot be used to assess your child(ren) in any meaningful way, and there is currently a moratorium on attaching the scores from these exams to your child(ren).
- These tests can never directly inform instruction by your teachers for your child(ren), which should be the key rationale for assessments. The results of the exam are determined over the summer and your children are in different classes with different teachers and students in the following school year.
- The state still does not release all of the questions on the test so no one can fully exam the test to see how it correlates to the state standards.
- The state has indeed reduced the number of days of testing, but has not appreciably changed the test, which is still developmentally inappropriate for many children.
- There is no limit on time, so some children may sit for the exam for hours in trying to finish it, which just creates more frustration and anxiety for these children.
- The test results do not accurately reflect the growth of many of our children from day one to day 181. Many children in our District do not speak English as their first language, or at all. Many of our children have learning disabilities. The state exams will never accurately reflect how your child(ren) is doing in our classrooms, how much growth they have accomplished during the year, and how well our schools do in serving the needs of your child(ren).

The stigma from having grades posted in the press about our schools where children take these tests creates a huge problem for our teachers and your child(ren). Due to pressure from our central office to perform better, teachers cannot teach all of what they would like to teach, or how they would like to teach. Many subject areas (art, music, science, social studies) are sacrificed to allow for more instruction in Math and ELA. There is less time for field trips. School is less inclusive of all of the topics and adventures that make learning fun, and develop your child(ren) into citizens of the world.

We need all parents to OPT-OUT their child(ren) from the state exams in grades 3 to 8 so that state will be forced to change these tests to some system of assessment that can be used correctly and appropriately to help your child succeed in our schools, and be prepared to be productive citizens in our community, our country, and our world.

Stronger together,
Stu Napear
President
Freeport Teachers Association

To get an opt out form go to www.nysape.org (NYS Allies for Public Education)

To get Why OPT-OUT facts go to https://www.nysape.org/uploads/5/4/8/0/54809863/why_opt_out_2018_-nysape.pdf

To get fact for parents go to <https://www.nysut.org/resources/all-listing/research/fact-sheets/fact-sheet-opting-out-parents>



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Affiliations:

New York State United Teachers
American Federation of Teachers
National Education Association
AFL-CIO