

April 7, 2015

Dear Parent:

This school year the ELA and Math Assessments for grades 3-8 are scheduled to begin the week of April 13, 2015. The WCSD along with all other school districts in New York State are required, by Commissioner's Regulations, to participate and administer these assessments.

Last school year, a letter was posted on our District website indicating information regarding students refusing to take a state assessment. Of particular note, the letter indicated information regarding the alternative setting where students refusing to take the assessment would remain while the assessment is in progress. This same procedure will remain in place for students this year. You can refer to the letter: [Opting Out Letter 2013-14](#)

The procedural option is *student refusal* on the test administration day. It is very important for parents to understand that "opt-out" is not the technical term for a student's refusal to participate. In order to minimize the level of disruption and confusion that can arise during the scheduled testing period and/or create for an uncomfortable situation for the students, if your intention is to instruct your child to refuse the aforementioned assessments and/or the New York State Science Assessments in grades 4 and 8, please submit this request in writing to your building principal in advance. Courteously, your building principal will contact you to confirm the receipt of your letter.

When a student refuses to take the State Assessment(s) their test is coded as **999**. It is very important to note that when a student begins an exam and later refuses to participate/complete the assessment, the result will be a score for your child. (i.e. Student begins the test on day 1 and submits a refusal on day 2, will result in a score on the exam). The WCSD, at all cost, is trying to avoid this scenario. We respectfully ask you to be mindful of this matter.

Please note that if you have any questions, concerns and/or seek clarification regarding the New York State Grades 3-8 Assessment, please notify your school building principal. At the present time, the WCSD recommends that your child participate in the New York State Assessments. Once again, in the event that you are not in agreement with our recommendation, please make sure to send a letter to your child's principal at your earliest convenience.

What is most important is that all of our students, in spite of their decision to refuse or take the assessments, are to be respected, validated, supported and provided with adequate and supportive environments during this testing period.

Lastly, this letter is not indicative of the District's position and/or its political opinion related to student refusal. It is intended to provide you with the information that you as a parent should be made aware of prior to the administering of the assessment.

Sincerely,

Jose Carrion
Superintendent of Schools