



WAPPINGERS

Central School District



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JOSE CARRION, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

March 10, 2016

Dear Parent:

As I indicated in the March Newsletter posted on our District website, I am writing to share news regarding the ELA and Math Assessments for grades 3-8 which are scheduled to begin the week of April 5, 2016. The WCSD, along with all other school districts in New York State, are required, by Commissioner's Regulations, to participate and administer these assessments. This school year you received a letter from the Central Office Administration providing you with information regarding the changes made for the New York State Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Assessments.

For the past two consecutive years, a letter has been posted on our District website sharing information regarding students refusing to take a State assessment. Of particular note, the letter included information regarding the alternative setting where students refusing to take the assessment would remain while the assessment is in progress. We have recently been provided with greater detail on the changes to the exams. Thankfully, the procedural aspects of administering the test remain the same. You can refer to the letters: [Opting Out Letter 2013-14](#) and [Refusal Assessments 2014-2015](#).

For formal instruction and procedure, it is important to understand that the terminology is student "refusal" on the test administration day. Since the test will be untimed, please be clear that all students, whether they are taking the assessment or refusing the assessment, will be provided with the utmost respect and will also be engaged in learning throughout the day. Our goal is to ensure that there are minimal disruptions for all of our students.

If you intend to instruct your child to refuse the Grades 3-8 ELA and/or Math Assessments, as well as the New York State Science Assessments in grades 4 and 8, please submit this request in writing to your building principal in advance. As a courtesy, your building principal will contact you to confirm the receipt of your letter.

Please note if there is a refusal to take the State test, it is coded as 999. If a student

begins an assessment and later refuses to participate/complete the assessment, the result will be a score for your child. (e.g. student begins the assessment on day 1 of a multi-day State test and submits a refusal on day 2 of the same State test, the result is a score on the State test). To avoid this scenario, we respectfully request you send in a letter prior to the start of the State test.

If you have any questions, concerns and/or need clarification regarding the New York State Grades 3-8 Assessments, please contact your school building principal.

As we have indicated in the past, the WCSD continues to recommend that your child participate in the New York State Assessments. 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.

This letter is not indicative of the District's position and/or its political opinion related to a student assessment "refusal". It is intended to provide you with adequate information regarding the administration of the State tests. Please be clear the District's utmost importance is that all of our students are valued in the WCSD community.

Sincerely,
José L. Carrión
Superintendent of Schools