

refuse^{ny}

Our Children. Their Future.

April 1 – April 3, 2014
Grade 3-8 ELA exams

April 30 – May 2, 2014
Grade 3-8 Math exams

*Start talking to your school now
about how to refuse this spring.*



Common Core: The standards were developed without input from any K-3 classroom teachers or early-childhood professionals resulting in a curriculum that is developmentally inappropriate. The standards were rushed into implementation without being piloted, therefore it is unknown if they will achieve the desired results.

- *Cease further implementation until the standards have been reevaluated and piloted.*



Teacher Evaluations: A new system of evaluation, known as APPR, ties teacher performance ratings to student test scores. Also known as VAM (value added measures), this system is unreliable and unstable resulting in a narrowing of the curriculum and teaching to the test.

- *Remove student test scores from formal teacher evaluations.*



Data Collection: New York remains the only state fully on board with inBloom, a “cloud” based student data collection company. More than 400 data points of personally identifiable information including discipline and special education status will be stored in the cloud without guarantee of future safety or how it will be used.

- *Allow parents and districts to opt-out of sharing this extensive sensitive data.*



High Stakes Testing: The average time spent sitting for exams has increased by 128% since 2010. Our third graders have endured an increase of 163%. This doesn't even include the various pre-tests and other exams given locally to determine student growth scores. It takes the state four months to grade these tests that are never returned to the schools or students.

- *Reduce the number and length of exams. Return tests to schools and students before the end of the school year so they can inform instructional decisions.*



Expectations: In August NYSED reported that nearly 70% of students statewide failed the new Common Core State Exams. Despite the fact that the College Board uses a score of 1550 on the SAT as an indicator of College and Career readiness, NYSED inappropriately indexed cut scores to 1630 after the tests were graded to achieve a predetermined failure rate.

- *Test based accountability systems have no evidence supporting increased student achievement. The only ones who benefit from these reforms are the testing companies.*



Family and Educators: After strong opposition was expressed at the first State PTA sponsored forum, Commissioner King canceled the remaining scheduled meetings. A new schedule of community forums was established. At times, these carefully controlled events involved selective, advanced ticketing, prescreened questions and even groups being brought in as supporters.

- *Refusing this spring's Grade 3-8 ELA and Math exams is the only course of action left.*