

WHAT STEPS SHOULD I TAKE TO OPT OUT MY CHILD?

1. Since neither NY State or City has a formal “opt out” provision, we’re advising parents and students to use the language of “refusal.” Children who refuse the test do not receive a score.
2. Notify the principal in writing that you and your child intend to refuse the tests.
3. For testing days, give your child a note saying they refuse all state tests. Once they receive the test, they should not write anything (the one exception would be if there’s no sticker on the test with the child’s name, they may be asked to write their name.)
4. Talk to the teacher(s) and school administrators about a plan to engage your child in a meaningful activity (such as reading) during testing periods. Many schools will not require your child to actually sit for the test if you have notified them of your intent to refuse.
5. If you are concerned that your child might be unable to sit still for the duration of the exam (and if the school requires them to do so), consider picking up your child once the test is underway.
6. Offer your child’s teacher(s) support in developing a portfolio of representative work to support an end-of-year decision to promote your child without state test results.
7. If you have questions, email us at info@timeoutfromtesting.org. We can put you in touch with parents who refused the tests last year or are planning to do so this year.

Thank you Change the Stakes for this page.