



Opting Out of New York State Exams

Parents: Do any of these complaints sound familiar?

- We love our school but hate the test preparation
- My child does not get enough time in subjects like science, social studies, physical education and the arts
- My child's natural strengths and abilities are not being nurtured & testing practices do not accommodate my child's special needs
- My child is learning two languages but feels too much pressure to perform on tests given only in English
- Our entire family is stressed out about homework and test prep

Are you fed up with test-based learning?

What You Should Know About Opting Out at This Time

Unlike some other states (like California and Pennsylvania) New York currently *does not* have a *non-punitive opt out* process. This is something we should demand be changed.

There are *potential consequences* for your child, family and school that you *should consider* while making a decision. Talk to your school to find out if any of the following would happen:

- Your child could be at risk of being held back or mandated to attend summer school
- Parents of children in 4th and 7th grades also need to consider if opting out creates additional challenges in applying for selective middle and high schools
- If large numbers of families in an individual school refuse to take the exams there could be serious consequences for teachers, principals and the school

Want to opt out?

1. Talk to your teacher and principal about your decision and potential consequences for your child
2. Make sure your school has a plan to accommodate your child on testing days
3. Contact the Change the Stakes Campaign
changethestakes.org
changethestakes@gmail.com

Interested in other ways to join the fight against high stakes testing?

1. Sign the petition to demand NYS develop an opt out process changethestakes.org
2. Go to timeoutfromtesting.org and vote on the Referendum on High Stakes Testing
3. Organize a discussion or film screening in your school or district on high stakes testing
4. Contact your elected officials to demand school policies that support learning and limit testing