

WTA policy statement

Opting Out of the current NYS ELA/Math tests for grade 3-8

The WTA is a member of the Monroe County of Federation of Teachers, which has publicized its opposition to the standardized high-stakes testing which has been foisted upon the children of New York for the past several years. While the NYS Board of Regents has made much ado about efforts to modify future tests, the truth is that very little has yet changed:

- these are still the same developmentally inappropriate Pearson tests that students took last year, with only very minor modifications, including unlimited time to take them
- much of the content of the tests remains secret and will not be released to teachers, ensuring that it plays no effective role in informing or improving instruction
- there is a temporary moratorium on the use of these test scores for student placement or teacher evaluation, but they will still divert days away from meaningful instruction
- while the state has hired a new testing vendor (Questar) and is finally including teachers as question writers and contributors to test redesign, the new tests will not be used until 2018

For these and other reasons, the WTA strongly supports parents' rights to be properly informed of the facts surrounding these tests, and to make reasoned decisions as to whether their own children should sit for these tests, or instead "opt-out" until the process has been fully repaired.