

*Rockville Centre Teachers' Association*  
*25 Buckingham Road*  
*Rockville Centre, New York 11570*

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Parents of our students have become increasingly aware of the consequences associated with statewide ELA and Mathematics standardized assessments for children in grades three through eight. Rockville Centre has remained at the forefront in supporting the choice to opt out of these examinations.

We agree that, for some students, the tests contribute to increased stress and anxiety. They are lengthy, developmentally inappropriate for many, and fail to assist our children in the ultimate goal of promoting the educational, social and emotional growth of our nation's future leaders. As the practitioners representing our educational community, the Rockville Centre Teachers Association maintains that the current examinations fail to adapt to the nuances of our students' maturity levels, individual learning styles in addressing tasks, and multiple intelligences to demonstrate knowledge, skills acquisition and usage.

Pearson, the provider of the statewide examination, has been dismissed, but this year's tests will again be a Pearson-based assessment. We have been told that the quantity of questions has been reduced; in actuality, the maximum reduction will be by no more than three questions. Significant recommendations were made by the Common Core Task Force, but have not yet been implemented.

In contrast, the NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) is an assessment also administered within our district. It is distinctly different from that of the state standardized tests in that it provides a personalized academic snapshot of each individual and helps guide instruction to support our children. The MAP has proven to be a valuable tool for our educators and students.

Please consider visiting <http://www.nysut.org/resources/all-listing/2015/january/fact-sheet-on-opting-out-of-state-tests>, which contains a useful fact sheet on this topic. Excellent resources are also located at <http://www.nysape.org/resources.html>.

Sincerely,



Elvira S Pettersen  
President  
Rockville Centre Teachers Association

cc: RVCTA Cabinet and Executive Council