



HAMILTON CENTRAL SCHOOL

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March 21, 2014

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Dear Parents:

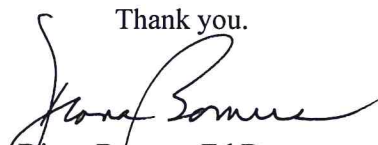
As you may know, school districts are required to administer certain examinations in order to comply with federal or state law. According to the State Education Department, with the exception of certain areas in which parental consent is required, such as Committee on Special Education (CSE) evaluations federally-funded surveys and analyses, there is no provision in statute or regulation allowing parents to opt their children out of state tests.


As per prior memorandum from the New York State Education Department (NYSED), please be aware that low assessment participation rates could adversely impact a school district's funding or increased state oversight of local school functions.

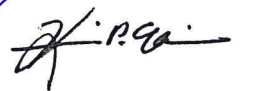
Therefore, it will be our practice to provide each student with a copy of each examination that students in that grade level are required to complete. Parents that wish for the child to be released from State testing must communicate their "intent of refusal" to HCS, before the exam is given. Upon receipt of the refusal, the district will arrange an alternative activity and the student will read quietly in an alternate location, rather than complete the examination. Their exam will be coded as "not tested." Although the individual student will not be penalized for the refusal, the school district may experience the effects described above.

We understand that the concerns expressed regarding testing instruction and the NYSED Reform Agenda are part of a larger public discussion that will hopefully be settled soon. These public discussions may result in changes in federal or State law. Until then, our District will continue to administer its education program in compliance with existing law, while striving to prepare our students for a successful future.

Thank you.


Diana Bowers, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools


William Dowsland
Secondary Principal


Kevin Ellis
Elementary Principal

Parents/Opt-Out/Test Refusal
(Letters)

Aim High!