

March 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Over the last few years, parents of our students have become increasingly aware of the high stakes consequences associated with the ELA and Mathematics tests for 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade children. Last year, many Levittown parents opted to refuse the grade 3-8 tests for their children at a rate of 67%. One of the highest Opt-Out rates in Nassau County.

This movement continues to grow in Levittown and across New York State. In 2018, over 215,000 students refused to take the Math and ELA tests statewide.

While it would be inappropriate for an individual teacher to advise a parent on “opting-out” of these state tests, we hope that you can use this informational letter to help you form your own decision regarding your child’s educational experience. Please refer to the links on the bottom of this letter for more information about your right to refuse the test.

The Levittown United Teachers, as well as its state affiliate NYSUT, fully supports a parent’s right to choose what is best for their children and a parent’s right to refuse the state standardized tests if the parent believes state testing is inappropriate and/or may be harmful to his or her child. Regardless of the temporary moratorium that eliminates certain consequences of the state tests for students and teachers, these tests are still being administered for advisory purposes and are a significant factor in identifying low performing schools.

While the New York State Education Department’s overreliance on state tests creates unfortunate consequences for students, teachers and schools, please know that we value your children as more than a test score. We look forward to continuing our dedicated partnership with you.

Sincerely,



John F. Caulfield, President  
Levittown United Teachers

*For more information, please visit:*

<http://www.nysape.org>

<https://www.nysut.org/resources/all-listing/research/fact-sheets/fact-sheet-opting-out-parents>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Longislandoptout>