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Dear _____:

I am writing on behalf of our children, _____, to refuse New York State assessments and related testing. While we have no issue with properly written tests that assess a student's knowledge, we do not feel that our children should take exams which are selected outside the classroom or related to any teachers' continuing employment. We believe that such tests create stress levels inappropriate for children of any age.

For the 2015-2016 academic school year:

[ ] We refuse the New York State Math and ELA Tests. We respectfully direct your attention to the NYS Student Information Repository System (SIRS) Manual[1], which directs that our children be scored as a 'refusal,' with a final score of '999' and a standard achieved code of '96,' on ELA and Math tests. Please note that a 'refusal' is not the same as 'absent' nor a 'did not receive a test' as they are defined differently and scored with different standard achieved codes[1]. Also note that 'The makeup dates are to be used for administering makeup tests to students who were 'ABSENT' during the designated administration dates.'[2]

[ ] We refuse any and all field tests used for purposes of testing questions for any agency outside the school district. This includes all field tests for NYSED as well as private agencies.

[ ] We refuse any and all tests used for purposes of teacher evaluation, including APPR as well as Student Learning Outcomes or SLO tests. This may include, but is not limited to, AIMSweb, Star, 'progress monitoring tests' and similar assessments. We are refusing both pre-tests and post-tests.

[ ] We refuse the state-issued Science test for 4th and/or 8th grade students. Again, we respectfully direct your attention to the NYS Student Information Repository System (SIRS) Manual[1] for appropriate scoring.

[ ] We refuse any and all unapproved surveys, tests, and data collection instruments under which student data are collected and/or shared outside the school district, including but not limited to any

survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning any members of our family related to our values, attitudes, beliefs, current status, or relationships. Refusal means that the school district is directed to receive written permission from the parent(s) undersigned PRIOR TO the use of any such instrument or device.

Regarding all refused tests, we would ask that the school please provide an alternative activity for our children, along with other children who have refused, during administrative sessions of testing. We are willing to partner with the school to find appropriate activities that will not exert undue stress on the teacher and/or classroom. We understand that an alternate activity is not required on the part of the school. If you are unable to accommodate an alternate activity for our children we would ask that you please utilize the provision of the Educator Guide which explains "... that student may be permitted to read silently."[3]

Please note that we are reserving the option of removing our children from school during the test administration session depending on the emotional state of our children on the day of refusal.

Sincerely,

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[1] NYS Student Information Repository System (SIRS) Manual, page 63.
[2] 2013 Edition School Administrator's Manual, page 25.
[3] NYS Educator Guide to the 2014 Common Core English Language Arts Test (page 9) (ELA) and Mathematics(page7)