

# **IS YOUR CHILD STRESSING THE UPCOMING STATE EXAMS? *DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN REFUSE THE TESTS?***

## **MYTH vs. FACT:**

**MYTH:** My child is required to take the state ELA & Math tests for grades 3-8.

**FACT:** Under NYS law, any minor child can REFUSE to take these exams.

**MYTH:** My child might be left back if he/she doesn't take the tests.

**FACT:** The only way the test can be held against your child is if he/she fails it.

**MYTH:** If my child refuses, he/she will be forced to take the harder city/district tests instead.

**FACT:** If your child refuses, the only legal and common alternative assessment will be a portfolio of his/her classwork & class exams from the year.

**MYTH:** If my child refuses, my school will lose funding.

**FACT:** Schools will only lose funding if many children do poorly on the exams.

**MYTH:** If my child refuses, he/she will be given a zero grade.

**FACT:** If a child refuses the tests, it is marked code 999, "refusal," and given no grade at all.

**MYTH:** My child's teacher will face negative consequences if he/she refuses the tests.

**FACT:** Legally, test refusals do not impact teachers at all. If your administration uses refusals against teachers, they are choosing to do so and are very wrong to do so.

**MYTH:** The state exams are required for entry into middle and high school.

**FACT:** The portfolio assessment is completely acceptable by virtually all public schools.

**MYTH:** The state exams show how my child is doing in school.

**FACT:** The state exams are often so convoluted they aren't accurate indicators of any genuine academic progress.

**MYTH:** Teachers need the state exam scores to see where my child is and to help him/her with any deficiencies.

**FACT:** Nobody sees the state tests' scores until MONTHS later, so teachers cannot use the scores for any instructional purposes.

**MYTH:** It is very difficult to refuse to allow my child to take the state exams.

**FACT:** In 2014, over 77,000 students refused to take the New York State ELA & Math Exams for grades 3-8. All you have to do is fill out this letter, print it, and send or bring it in:

<http://www.united2counter.com/refusal-form>

REFUSE THE STATE TESTS. TELL ALBANY THAT HIGH-STRESS, HIGH-STAKES, HIGH-PROFIT TESTING IS UNACCEPTABLE FOR OUR CHILDREN. TELL NEW YORK STATE THAT WE WANT YEAR-LONG "TEACHING TO THE TESTS" TO END. SEND A MESSAGE THAT WE DEMAND MEANINGFUL AND WELL-ROUNDED LEARNING BE RETURNED TO OUR NEW YORK PUBLIC SCHOOLS.