



NYSED Learning Summit, May 7th 2015 **NYS Allies for Public Education**

As leaders of the opt out movement and representatives of over 50 grassroots groups, NYSAPE represents the views of more than 200,000 parents in New York State who demand an immediate end to the overemphasis on harmful testing practices. The questions put forth by the New York State Education Department do not adequately address the real issues concerning the use of test scores to evaluate teaching and learning in New York State. We urge the Board of Regents to utilize all avenues within their power to demand that both the Legislature and the Governor amend the education law and decouple tests scores from principal and teacher evaluations. The use of test scores in teacher and principal evaluations will only exacerbate the narrowing of curriculum and test prep in our schools. In addition, it will further increase stress on young learners. NYSAPE also urges the Board of Regents to:

- Ensure that standardized test scores are being used in accordance with research and evidence based practice
- Convene an independent review of NYS career and college ready standards to ensure that standards are research based and appropriate
- Reduce the length of and time spent on state tests to align with recognized developmentally and pedagogically appropriate levels and provide full transparency for the state tests by allowing them to be made public
- Require that school districts notify parents & guardians on an annual basis of their right to refuse state standardized tests on behalf of their child(ren) without penalty to the students, teachers, or school districts
- Amend education regulations to require parental notification for sharing of any personally identifiable student data and information
- Commission a task force including parents, educators, and stakeholders to study the Common Core Learning Standards and make recommendations to adjust and adopt NYS standards
- Provide an open process by which the next Education Commissioner is selected

We thank the Board of Regents for their service to public education and are hopeful that they will utilize the feedback and concerns of the more than 200,000 families in New York State who have made their opposition to test driven public education abundantly clear.

New York State Allies for Public Education

A coalition of over 50 grassroots groups across New York State who believe in the power of public education

nysape.org