

## **District Statement Regarding NYS Testing**

As testing season approaches, parents have been asking about whether or not their children are required to take the NYS Grades 3-8 ELA and Math assessments. It is not the District's intention to advocate for one position or the other regarding NYS 3-8 testing, as this is a personal decision made by each family. The District is obligated to follow the rules provided to us by the New York State Department of Education, and thus will be giving the NYS Assessments for students in grades 3-8 in both ELA and Mathematics.

**Our intent is to educate our families regarding testing requirements and refusal protocols to allow our parents/guardians to make informed decisions.**

**If a family determines that they do not want to have their child participate in the exams, the following guidelines have been established by the District:**

1. As it is the right of parents to direct the education and upbringing of their children, the West Genesee Central School District will honor a parent's decision to refuse to take the state tests in grades 3-8.
2. If a decision is made to refuse any of the 3-8 state tests, a letter or e-mail stating so should be addressed to the child's principal by April 10 for ELA and April 20th for mathematics.
3. On the day of the test, an alternate location will not be provided due to limited space. Students will be able to read quietly in the testing room(s).

**The following are responses to frequently asked questions:**

1. Refusal to take the tests will not exclude a child from special programs such as accelerated classes or remediation.
2. The District has an array of measurements to determine student readiness and/or skills and talents.
3. These tests will not have an impact as students move on to high school.
4. If you are planning to have your student refuse the 3-8 state tests, please make every effort to contact your child's principal by April 10 for the ELA test and by April 20 for the Mathematics test.
5. The state does use results of these tests to provide both teachers and principals a state provided score, which is equal to 20% of their annual evaluation.
6. The state does use the results as a rank comparison to other schools both in the state and in the region

7. Teachers and school improvement teams look for trends in the data to determine areas in the taught curriculum that may need to be strengthened

***West Genesee Central School District believes in educating the whole child, therefore, while state testing is a part of the school year for students, it is not the only part. Every possible measure of success for a child is taken into consideration each and every day; not just a few days in April.***