

FIVE THINGS YOU CAN DO NOW

if you are concerned about excessive high-stakes testing and Common Core

1

Sign on in support of the Parents' Letter to Mayor de Blasio and Carmen Fariña: a Call for Free & Open Dialogue About High-Stakes Testing in City Schools—then pass it on to friends at other schools. **Do this by Saturday Nov 15!**

Letter currently available here: <http://www.optoutnyc.com/parents>

2

Submit testimony online to the state's Common Core Task Force. The window for **commenting closes November 30.**

<https://www.ny.gov/content/public-testimony-common-core>

3

If you are a Facebook user, join the **NYC Opt Out** group. Long Island's incredibly effective organizing takes place via the Long Island Opt Out Facebook page. Let's build NYC's page so that we too can actively share information and strategies, connect across schools, and ask each other questions as they come up.

4

Visit optoutnyc.com or changethestakes.org to become better informed about high-stakes testing and test refusal in NYC. You will find printable opt out letters, pointers on how to talk to teachers and other parents, and links to articles and other resources, including state and national organizations.

5

Most effective of all: REFUSE THE TESTS!

The city & state can't profile and punish based on test scores if there are no test scores to begin with. Refuse to be part of a system that harms children, teachers, and schools. And don't just keep it to yourself; you might be surprised to find that you are not the only one in your school, circle of friends, or extended family with misgivings about high-stakes testing. Talk to those folks. Have an informal meeting, start or join a committee, and share your questions and your research.