



**Maine-Endwell School Community:**

Commissioner Elia has challenged school districts to reduce the number of students opting out of the NYS Assessments based on the changes being enacted. The goal is to significantly reduce the number of students opting out of the NYS assessment program especially after the US Department of Education sternly warned states that failure to meet annual participation targets may lead to reduction or elimination of federal aid. Furthermore, the lack of student participation leaves us with far less predictive data which we have used to inform decision-making and intervention needs.

Additionally, the Maine-Endwell Central School District listened to many parents who, despite our efforts, chose to have their children 'opt out' of the NYS 3-8 ELA and Math assessments. For the 2016-2017 school year, the District will be enacting the following;

1. Parents who choose to have their child 'opt out' of the NYS 3-8 assessments must request this – in writing – to their child's building principal prior to the start of the assessment. The District will provide alternative educational activities during the examination period. In order to properly account for space and supervision needs, a letter indicating the desire to have your child 'opt out' will be required.
2. If your child is present for the examination, but refuses to take the examination and the District does not have a letter from a parent, a school administrator will make every effort to reach a parent to report such activity. However, without prior written notification, such refusal will be scored accordingly and said child will not be afforded an alternative location.

A building or district administrator will reach out to parents when a request is made to answer any questions. We encourage you to reach out to your building principal if you have questions or concerns. You may also wish to speak with Mrs. Julie Gallagher, Director of 6-12 Instruction and Instructional Services, with any particular questions you have regarding our assessment protocols. Additionally, you are always welcome to contact me at [ivanfossen@me.stier.org](mailto:ivanfossen@me.stier.org) or via a phone call at (607) 754-1400 extension 2311.

Very Sincerely,

Jason R. Van Fossen,  
Superintendent of Schools