



Board of Education

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#WeAreSachem

Sachem Central School District

Board of Education

March 17, 2022

Dear Governor Hochul, Commissioner Rosa, Regent Tilles and Chancellor Young, Jr.,

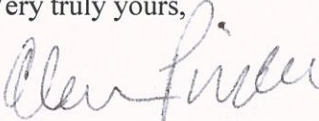
Today we write on behalf of the Sachem Central School District, which is one of the largest school districts in New York State. More specifically, we are writing with respect to educational concerns related to Grades 3-8 State Testing (hereinafter "State Testing"), the 2022 spring Regents examinations and APPR requirements.


The concerns related to the State Testing have been well documented by many professionals and constituents throughout New York State. It is a commonly shared belief that the State Testing has very limited utility from an educational standpoint and has served as a lightning rod in this and other communities across New York State. It is for this reason that the level of parental opt-out in the Sachem School District has been as high as 75%, which is not an outlier on Long Island. Due to the high rate of parental opt-outs, the utility of State Testing has been rendered an ineffective way of tracking the educational progress of our students. Given the disruption to our assessment program in New York due to the pandemic, we believe there is no better time than now to pilot and offer alternative assessments that could provide superior information in real time that can help drive instruction in areas of deficit.

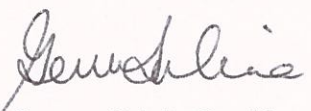
On a separate note, although the COVID-19 pandemic has seen a much-welcomed decline in the rate of infection, the by-product of having students and staff quarantined at various points of the school year has resulted in learning loss and a lack of continuity of instruction. For that reason, we strongly urge that the State Education Department again place Regents examinations and APPR requirements on hold for the remainder of this school year. We believe it would be detrimental to our students be required to take Regents examinations for graduation purposes in light of these inequities. Going forward a discussion on the decoupling of student test scores and teacher scores from APPR should take place as well.


The Sachem Central School District stands at the ready to discuss these topics and help craft real alternatives that will benefit students across the state. Please feel free to reach out to us so that we may begin this dialogue as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,


Alex Piccirillo, President
Sachem Board of Education


Dr. Christopher Pellettieri
Superintendent of Schools


Gemma Salvia, President
Sachem Administrators
Association


Philip Barbera, President
Sachem Central
Teachers Association

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