February 21, 2019

Dear Neighbor,

On April 2nd and April 3rd, NYC public school students will be asked to take the NY State English Language Arts (ELA) exam. On May 1st and 2nd, they will be asked to take the NY State math exam.

There is a lot of confusion and misinformation about whether students are required to take these tests. Parents should be aware that they have the right to make the decision to have their child opt out without retaliation from schools.

I support parents who choose to opt out. These exams, originally intended to assess academic development, are still being used inappropriately by state and federal education departments. High stakes, standardized tests were never meant to be used to evaluate schools and determine principals' bonuses. The NYC Department of Education must do a better job of informing all parents of their right to opt their children out of these tests.

The decision to opt out is a personal one. If you do choose to make this decision, you must write a letter to your child's principal. More information on how to opt out is available here: https://www.optoutnyc.com/how-to-opt-out.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at 718-803-6373.

Sincerely,

Daniel Dromm
New York City Council Member, 25th District