

COMMUNITY OFFICE  
37-32 75TH STREET, 1ST FLOOR  
JACKSON HEIGHTS, NY 11372

TEL: (718) 803-6373  
FAX: (718) 803-9832

CITY HALL OFFICE  
250 BROADWAY, ROOM 1826  
NEW YORK, NY 10007  
TEL: (212) 788-7066

Email: [dromm@council.nyc.gov](mailto:dromm@council.nyc.gov)



THE COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
**DANIEL DROMM**  
COUNCIL MEMBER, 25<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, QUEENS

CHAIRPERSON  
FINANCE

COMMITTEES  
EDUCATION  
AGING  
CIVIL SERVICE & LABOR  
IMMIGRATION  
CIVIL RIGHTS

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Dromm".

Daniel Dromm  
New York City Council Member, 25th District