



Ichabod Crane Central School District

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February 28, 2018

Dear Parents of Students in Grades 3-8,

We hope this letter finds you well and that you enjoyed the February break with your family. In a few weeks, state testing in ELA, math, and science will be upon us. The schedule for state testing is as follows:

- ELA: Wednesday, April 11 and Thursday, April 12
- Math: Tuesday, May 1 and Wednesday, May 2
- Grade 4 & 8 Science: Monday, June 4

You may have noticed one of the many changes that the NYS Education Department (NYSED) has made this year is that testing for ELA and math have been reduced from three days of testing for each subject, to two days.

Betty Rosa, Chancellor of Education for NYS, and Mary Ellen Elia, Commissioner of Education for NYS, along with the Board of Regents, have been working diligently for the past couple years to listen to all of the concerns parents, teachers, students, and community members have expressed about the testing of our students. In addition to the reduction of testing time, the following are some of the changes that have been put in place to mitigate the concerns:


- The test results will not be included in the students' transcripts/permanent records.
- The test results will not be used to measure teacher effectiveness.
- Test results cannot be used as the sole determining factor when making program decisions for students. For example, if your child does not receive academic intervention services (AIS), they do not score as "proficient" on the state assessment, but their classroom performance and other objective measures indicate that your child does not need AIS, then he/she will not be recommended for AIS.
- NYSED is currently working with state lawmakers and the US Department of Education (USDOE) on making changes to how schools are identified as being in need of assistance. Again, they are exploring the use of multiple measures, instead of emphasizing too heavily on one set of assessments in order to support truly struggling schools.

Although the Ichabod Crane School District's (and NYSED) position is that parents have the right to "opt out" their child from state testing, we are asking and encouraging you to have your child take the assessments. The data we are getting from the assessments are another way that we can compare how Ichabod Crane students are performing compared to their peers from across the state.


If, however, you feel strongly that your child should "opt out," we need to receive your intentions, in writing to your Principal, **no later than Wednesday, March 28** in order for our team to plan and prepare for the testing. Please include which test(s) your child will be opting out from.

Again, it is our strong belief that these assessments have value and can be used to continuously improve our academic program at Ichabod Crane.

Sincerely,


Tim Farley
ES/MS Principal


Suzanne Guntlow
Principal of APPR/Curriculum


Andrea Williams
PS Principal