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Matthew Baumann
Michael Isernia, Esq.
Alex Piccirillo
Vincent Reynolds
Laura Slattery
Meredith Volpe
Stephanie Volpe

District Clerk
Allison Florio
aflorio@sachem.edu

Superintendent of Schools
Christopher J.
Pellettieri, Ed.D.

51 School Street
Lake Ronkonkoma,
NY 11779
631.471.1331



#WeAreSachem

Sachem Central School District

Board of Education

April 19, 2023

New York State Education Department
89 Washington Ave
Albany, NY 12234

Dear Commissioner Rosa,

We are writing again on behalf of the Sachem Central School District, which is one of the largest school districts in New York. More specifically, we are writing with respect to educational concerns related to Grades 3-8 State Testing (hereinafter "State Testing").

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-outs in the Sachem School District is approximately seventy-five (75%) percent, which is consistent throughout 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. 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 deficiency. Accordingly, we urge New York State to consider the elimination of State Testing.

Similarly, we believe that the field tests that the District has been asked to administer serve no useful purpose and further take away from valuable instruction time. Accordingly, we are returning the tests back to the New York State Education Department.

Very truly yours,

Robert Scavo, Board President
On behalf of the entire Sachem Board of Education

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