



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 3

154 West 93rd Street New York, New York 10025 - Room 204 Tel (212) 678-2782 Fax (212) 678-2804 Email: CEC3@schools.nyc.gov

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Ilene Altschul
District 3 Community Superintendent

Superintendent District 3 Ilene Altschul
Joan of Arc Complex
154 West 93rd St.
New York, New York 10025

May 27th, 2016

RE: Pearson Field Tests

Dear Superintendent Altschul:

We recently learned that twenty-one of our District 3 elementary and middle schools will be administering stand-alone field tests to a range of our 3rd to 8th graders commencing at the end of this month and running until June 10. We further understand that the information accumulated during these tests will solely be for the use of the testing company Pearson to prepare additional tests and questions, and won't be reported to our districts, schools or to we parents. Thus it seems that our children will be acting as free labor for a private testing company and will be subject to yet more standardized testing for no reason other than to help the company improve its product - a product which Pearson will no longer even be administering to students in New York State after 2017 as they have lost their contract.

Further compounding this issue is the fact that our District 3 parents - and parents throughout New York City - have not even been notified about these upcoming tests, much less what they are and are not being used for, and how we might refuse to have our children take these tests should we decide to do so, as is our right as parents.

In the spirit of the DOE's stated desire for increased transparency and parent engagement in the education of our children, CEC3 is calling on your office, and the Department of Education, immediately to inform all District 3 parents, and public school parents throughout New York City, of the following:

- 1) The existence of these stand-alone field tests;
- 2) Their format, purpose and how they will be used;
- 3) Which schools and specific grades will be tested and when,
- 4) Why Pearson would be administering these field tests given that they have lost its contract with New York State
- 5) Whether any of these tests will be administered or graded electronically, and;
- 6) Our right to have our children refuse to take these tests and how we can implement this right should we wish to do so.

Thank you for your prompt response and action on this matter. Should you be unable to provide the above information to our parents in a timely manner, i.e., at least 2 days before these tests commence, CEC3 may take it upon ourselves to do so.

Respectfully,

Community Education Council 3

cc: Chancellor Carmen Farina
Gov. Andrew Cuomo
Mayor Bill DeBlasio
Council Member Helen Rosenthal
Council Member Inez Dickens
Council Member Mark Levine
Council Member Melissa mark-Viverito
Council Member Daniel Dromm
Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal
Assembly Member Daniel J. O'Donnell
Assembly Member Keith L. Wright
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Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer
Public Advocate Letitia James
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Regent Catherine Collins
Regent Judith Johnson
Regent Nan Eileen Mead
Regent Elizabeth S. Hakanson
Regent Luis O. Reyes

If you have any questions, please call the CEC 3 office @ 212-678-2782 or email CEC3 at CEC3@schools.nyc.gov

Anyone wishing to speak during the Public Comment Portion of the Calendar Meeting must sign in by 8:00pm.