



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

1011 First Avenue, New York, New York 10022 Phone: (212) 371-1000 Fax: (212) 758-3018

March 22, 2017

Dear Catholic School Families,

As you know, the New York State examination period is fast approaching. This is a time of exciting opportunities when our school teachers are able to assess the academic growth of each of their students.

While the overwhelming majority of our students comply with the Policy and Guidelines Manual (which states that schools “cooperate with state assessment programs”) and participate in the New York State exams every year, some families are hesitant to do so. For the 2016-17 school year, families who refuse to allow their child(ren) to participate in these exams will need to keep their child(ren) at home while they are being administered, as schools will not be allocating personnel to monitor nonparticipants. Students may come to school after the exam administration for the day has been completed.

Families considering a refusal of state exam participation are strongly encouraged to speak with their school principal about the benefits and importance of these assessments taken by so many of our students. In doing so, I also ask you to consider the following:

- Data gleaned from state exams helps teachers create individualized instruction plans and provide support in specific areas as needed.
- Test-taking helps build mental stamina in children, preparing them for higher education and other standardized tests students will take in the future, such as the high school TACHS exam, SATs, ACTs and more.
- While state exam scores do not determine promotion or retention, families can access tests administered in prior years to help prepare children to achieve at their highest level.
- Performance and personal data is carefully protected by the school and state, and is not shared with outside vendors or organizations.

Your participation during the 2017 spring examination period is greatly appreciated. I look forward to a successful spring for all our students and teachers.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. McNiff, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Archdiocese of New York

CC: Dr. Betsy Okello, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Staff Development, Archdiocese of New York
Regional Superintendents