



*An Important Message from the
Superintendent of Schools -
Grades 3-8 NYS Assessments*

March 7, 2019

Dear Parents,

In each classroom across our District, our faculty and staff make every effort to ensure that the highest quality educational experiences are offered to each of our students. We also believe that in order for each student to achieve his or her personal best, the school-parent partnership is critical.

Over the course of the past few years, the District has expressed its concern and presented questions pertaining to the role that the New York State tests have assumed. Specifically, we have objected to the increased focus on testing, expressed disappointment with the limited information we receive after the students have taken the tests, and continue to have concerns about the use of the tests in the evaluation of our teachers and principals.

In response to the concerns of not only the educational community, the State Education Department (SED) made adjustments to the state assessments. Included in these changes was reducing the number of test items and testing days, providing extended time for students to complete the tests, and a three-year moratorium on the use of test scores in teacher evaluations.

While SED continues to make adjustments in their testing program, there is still a requirement for districts and schools to administer the tests and to encourage participation from all students. However, should you choose not to have your child take the state tests, please submit an email to your child's principal indicating your decision by no later than Monday, March 25, 2019. If you have any questions regarding this year's state assessments, please do not hesitate to contact your child's principal who will be glad to be of assistance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Durso'.

Kristopher Harrison, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

6 Dows Lane
40 North Broadway
Irvington, NY 10533
914-591-8500 | 914-591-3064
www.irvingtonschools.org

