

10 Reasons The Upcoming 2014 Field Tests Are A Know-No

The State Education Department (SED) has allowed publishers like Pearson to try out test material on children. They operate without informing parents or asking for permission. Public school time and millions are spent field testing products which Pear\$on then sell\$ back to us.

In June 2012 and 2013, 750,000 students were targeted for *stand-alone field tests*, which are given separately from the regular testing program. It was a massive test development project. SED has not divulged the co\$t. This spring SED plans to do even more testing without notifying parents.

No law compels children to take field tests. But there are moral and ethical expectations that we should be given information about decisions and activities involving them. The Supreme Court has upheld the basic right of parents to direct the education and upbringing of their children.

Here is what you need to know about the field tests and why you should say “No!” to them.

<u>Things to Know...</u>		<u>It's Time to Say "No!"</u>
Children are not required to participate in field testing of any kind.	◆	There is <u>no mandate</u> from the U.S. or SED to take field tests. It is safe to reject them.
Nothing bad happens to children who don't take field tests—or to their teachers or their schools.	◆	There are <u>no punishments</u> children, teachers or schools will suffer when field tests are not taken.
The results don't count or go on children's records. Items are being tried out to benefit the publisher.	◆	We reject the imposition of field tests on students by SED to help Pear\$on develop and sell more tests.
Children are not motivated to do well on extra tests and “trial” items, so the tests yield misleading data.	◆	It is a lose-lose proposition: Pearson gets unreliable data which lead it to build poor future exams.
SED doesn't inform parents about field tests. Many teachers learn about them at the last minute.	◆	We won't accept being kept in the dark about when and where field tests will be conducted.
Children are being used and classroom time given to a private vendor so it can make marketable tests.	◆	We protest research for a product being done at our expense with profit from its sale going to Pear\$on.
Children are being treated as unknowing subjects in a testing laboratory—a form of exploitation.	◆	This must cease. Reputable studies spell out their aims, invite participation and pay their subjects.
Parents must be notified in advance. SED should be required to explain the need for field tests.	◆	Unless SED can defend the efficacy of its field test procedures, they should be terminated.
Parents have complete power to give or withhold consent for their children to take field tests.	◆	Parents must exercise their authority to decide whether or not their children will take field tests.
The New York City Council unanimously passed a resolution calling on SED to cease field testing.	◆	This April, however, SED/Pearson plan to do even more stand-alone field testing—until we stop them.

The Bottom Line: Just say “No!” to field tests this spring. 1-Find out now when SED has scheduled stand-alone field tests for your child's school. 2-Ask the principal or district superintendent what grades are involved. Insist on specific answers. 3-Advise him/her to notify all parents in advance. 4-Say that you don't want your child to participate. 5-Talk with other parents, teachers and local leaders. Spread the word. Unite to end field testing.