OPTIONS FOR PARENT ACTION

Want to resist the over-use and misuse of standardized testing?
Not sure what to do?

Possible First Steps

• Discuss testing with your child’s teacher and principal. If you feel comfortable, express your concerns.
• Ask questions about testing at parent/teacher conferences and PTA and School Leadership Team (SLT) meetings.
• Talk with other parents about testing.
• Ask your child’s teacher for a calendar of all required tests for the school year.
• Look at your child’s homework – is it engaging, stimulating? Is it teaching test taking skills? Observe your child’s interaction with their homework.

Bring It Up a Notch

• Attend a forum on high-stakes testing.
• Ask if the Community Education Council (CEC) in your district is addressing high-stakes testing.
• Organize a parent group in your school or district.
• Write to your elected officials and sign petitions.

Take a Stronger Stance

• Request that your child’s teacher create a portfolio of his/her work throughout the year as an alternative means of assessing your child’s performance.
• Opt your child out of the spring tests (find information about how to do this at changethestakes.org).
• Get involved with Change the Stakes or other groups working on testing reform.
• Speak out against high-stakes standardized tests to other parents, policymakers and the media.
• Organize other parents in your child’s school or district to opt out of the tests.

Resistance is personal and can be original.
Join the movement to fight high-stakes testing!

Change the Stake, a group of New York City parents and educators, promotes alternatives to high stakes-testing.
changethestakes.org