

## Say “NO!” to FIELD TESTING ~ June 1st-10th

*Field Tests are used by Pearson and other companies to do research on test questions for future standardized exams. This kind of product testing uses NYC children for commercial purposes without informing parents or asking for consent. But there's hope: Parents and students can refuse stand-alone tests without any consequences for themselves, their teachers, or schools.*

### What's Wrong with Field Tests?

- Field tests plant the seeds of high-stakes-testing programs and promote a system that narrows curriculum and dampens children's natural enthusiasm for learning. In NYC, test scores have been factored into decisions about student promotions, teacher evaluations and school closings.
- Field tests provide unreliable data. Children aren't motivated to do well on “trial” tests. The misleading information perpetuates the development of faulty exams.
- Whenever studies are conducted, reputable researchers spell out their aims, invite participation, and pay subjects. This has not been the case with field testing by profit-making publishers like Pearson. Children provide free labor for product-testing, while their parents and even their schools are kept in the dark.
- Field tests waste valuable class time. This leaves less time for art, music, physical movement, and other essential activities—activities *proven* to increase learning.

### Why Say No?

- No child is required to take a field test. There is no mandate to take these “experimental” tests. Declining to participate will in no way hurt students, their records, their teachers, or their schools.
- Publishers of field tests see them as essential for creating standardized exams. Without them, they argue, there would be no exams. Therefore, refusing to take them is a safe powerful way to demonstrate your opposition to high-stakes testing.

### How to Say No

1. Find out when field tests will be given at your school (typically only one or two grades are tested). Check [changethestakes.org](http://changethestakes.org) for details.
2. Share your concerns about field tests with other parents and see if you can get a group to opt out.
3. Send a letter to your principal. See [changethestakes.org](http://changethestakes.org) for a sample.
4. Work with the principal and your child's teacher to make sure that students who opt out of field tests are allowed to read or engage in another meaningful activity during the test.