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**Cc:** [Matt Knickerbocker](#)  
**Subject:** Ask parents to opt in if they want their child to take a standardized test. PUBLIC COMMENT--CT STATE BOE  
**Date:** Friday, April 9, 2021 5:46:40 PM

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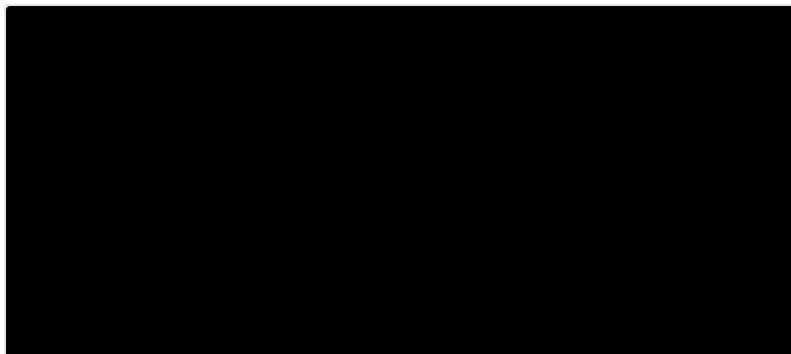
April 9, 2021

Dear Dr. Carver, Dr. Brooks, the Bethel Board of Education and the Connecticut State Board of Education,

I am writing about the need to stop standardized testing, especially in a pandemic. In December 2019 then Vice President Joe Biden committed to ending standardized testing if he were elected president. His Secretary of Education, however, has decided not to honor that promise. As you may know, Secretary Cardona and President Biden are currently being deluged with protest letters about that unfortunate decision from the National Education Association, the Network for Public Education, and other organizations that are prioritizing children over corporate testing profits.

Standardized tests tell us nothing that cannot be learned with other, cheaper, more humane assessments. In literacy, for example, the Developmental Spelling Assessment and the running record help teachers know what individual children need. Over 500 education researchers wrote to Secretary Cardona asking him to stop standardized testing, especially in a pandemic, and they and education deans have offered to help him and the country learn what assessments are far more effective than a standardized test (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2021/03/22/dont-force-schools-to-give-standardized-tests-this-pandemic-year-scholars-ask-cardona/>).

Ossining, New York, has come up with brilliant idea I urge educators in Bethel and in the state of Connecticut will follow—only give the tests if parents write a letter opting in (<https://patch.com/new-york/ossining/ossining-gives-parents-opt-choice-standardized-tests>; <https://www.lohud.com/.../ossining-schools.../6995580002/>).



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About Ossining's humane decision the New York State Allies for Public Education comments, "THIS is a profile in courage. THIS is putting children first. THIS is a district that understands what is truly important. Who will join them? Our kids need upstanders." I hope Connecticut will do the same.

Respectfully,  
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