

More than a Score

A guide for test
resistance and
reform activists
in the post-
NCLB Era



How to Move from Scores to Schools Our Children Deserve?



Building a Stronger Movement



ESSA moves power from federal officials to the states, creating new opportunities for resistance.

ESSA's Positives

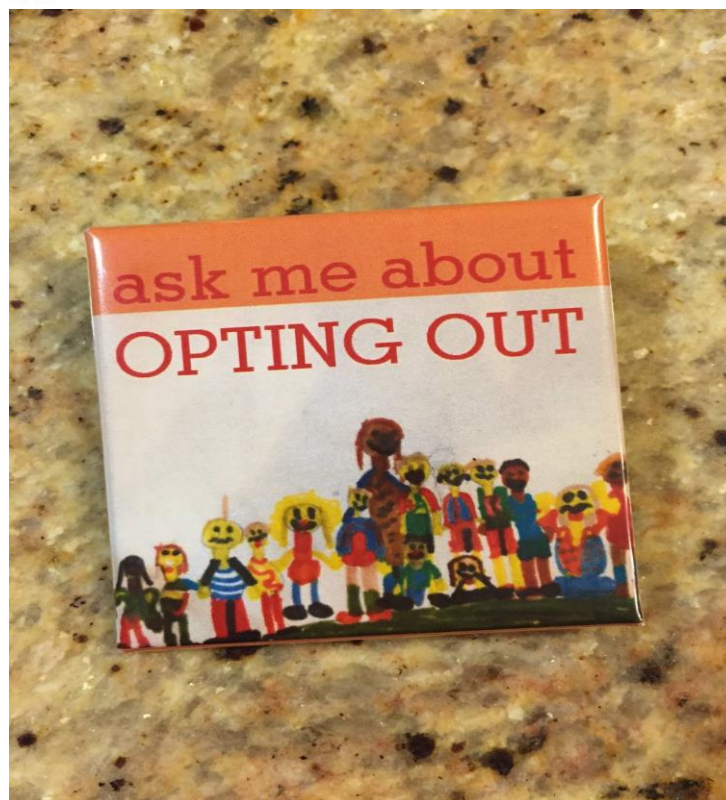
- ◆ Ends the unrealistic Adequate Yearly Progress provision
- ◆ No more federally mandated sanctions
- ◆ Recognizes right of parents to opt out in states that allow it
- ◆ Up to seven states can pilot better assessments

ESSA's Negatives

- ◆ Too much federally mandated testing
- ◆ Allows too much state and local testing plus test-based “accountability”
- ◆ Allows states to impose constant computer-based testing
- ◆ Expects states to test 95% of students

Break the Silence!

- ◆ Talk to parents, teachers, neighbors and friends one on one or in small groups.
- ◆ Share experiences about test overuse and misuse.
- ◆ Use the fact sheets at fairtest.org.



Learn from Others' Success

- ◆ Create safe spaces for parents to talk about the impact of testing on their children.
- ◆ Start a local Facebook page to share news and ways to take action.



Hold a Public Forum in Your Community

Invite parents, teachers and students to talk about the impact of testing on schools:

- Panel discussions
- Take the test events
- Film screenings
- Forums on what we want from public schools



A How-To Guide

- ◆ FairTest's guide to organizing a forum addresses finding speakers, doing outreach, preparing materials (including flyers like this example) and more.

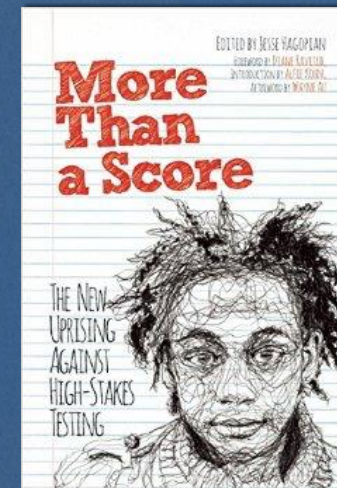
PLEASE JOIN
CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

for an exciting evening of discussion with . . .

Book Editor and Author
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Seattle Teacher Test Boycott

And Contributors -
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Monty Neill
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Early Childhood Education
Expert **Nancy Carlsson-Paige**

Massachusetts Teachers
Association President
Barbara Madeloni



DECEMBER 4, 2014 - 7 p.m.

First Parish Church - 3 Church Street - Harvard Square

For more information contact
www.citizensforpublicschools.org

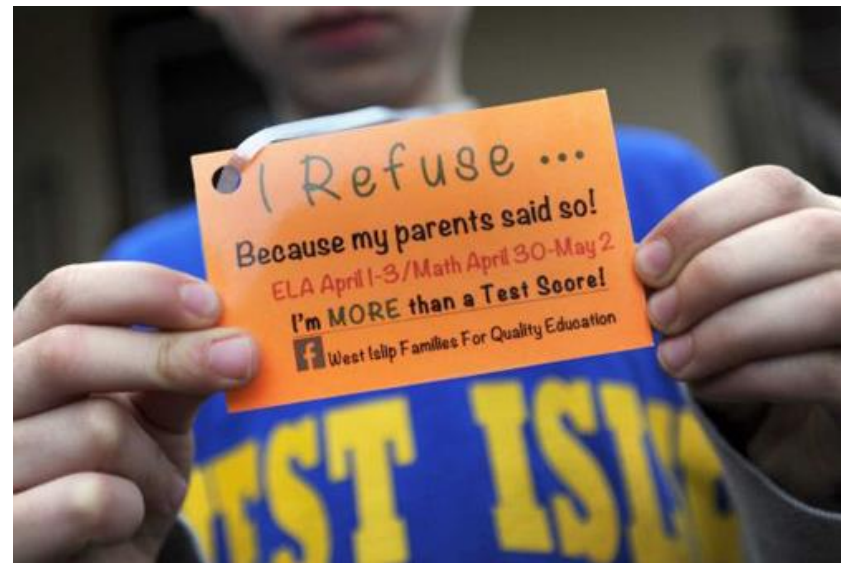
Just Say No to Tests!

- ◆ Consider taking one of the most powerful steps: Opting out, or refusing testing for your child.



The Opt-Out Numbers

- Here are just some of the opt-out numbers from last spring:
- 240,000 New York
- 103,000 New Jersey
- 100,000 Colorado
- 50,000+ Washington State



Create a Network for Change

Connect with:

- Teacher/educator associations and retired teachers
- Civic/civil rights groups
- PTA/PTOs/other parent groups
- Youth groups
- Religious communities



Urge Local Leaders to Take a Stand



- ◆ Work together to get your local school board, city council or town meeting to take a stand on testing. **Call for a moratorium and overhaul.**

“Time for a Moratorium on High-Stakes Testing”

A moratorium on all high-stakes uses of standardized test results will allow time for states to:

- ◆ Rethink assessment, with a focus on the needs of students and the classroom teacher
- ◆ Choose which sources of evidence of learning and school quality states and districts will use
- ◆ Develop plans through collaboration among different groups of stakeholders
- ◆ Decide how to identify, help schools that need assistance
- ◆ Establish implementation schedule



To the Editor: Less Testing, More Learning!

- ◆ Another way to get the word out is through letters to the editor and opeds or commentaries in your local or regional newspaper.



Educate Your State Legislators



Support Alternatives to Testing

- There are better ways to assess and promote student learning and provide public accountability.



Resources

- ◆ FairTest
www.fairtest.org
- ◆ United Opt Out
www.unitedoptout.com
- ◆ Network for Public Education
www.networkforpubliceducation.org



FairTest

National Center for Fair & Open Testing

- ◆ National Center for Fair and Open Testing
- ◆ fairtest@fairtest.org
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