

LETTER TO REGENTS:

Dear Board of Regents:

I write to ask that you keep current law as is, and reject the proposed changes to Regulations 100.3(b)(2), 100.4(b)(2) and (e), and 100.5(a), which would mandate that public school districts administer stand-alone field tests.

Our children are already subjected to far too many required standardized tests, and I want to see the trend move towards *reducing* this testing rather than the proposed increasing. Far too much time is taken from class instruction to add yet another round of required testing. Further, too many children are stressed and tired from excessive testing. In addition, stand-alone field tests produce questionable data, which will create unreliable actual tests. And those actual tests count for far too much -- with consequences for the student, the teacher, and the school -- to be based on bad input. I understand there are many other ways for prospective questions to be tested, and the state should consider and choose an alternative that does not increase the already large testing burden and does not produce statistically reliable data.

Again, I urge you to keep current law as is, and reject mandatory stand-alone field testing. As even State Education Commissioner John King has admitted, "pressures at the state and local level may have resulted in more testing than is needed and in rote test preparation that crowds out quality instruction." <http://www.wnyc.org/story/state-looking-reduce-number-tests/>; I ask that you instead please work to reduce testing.