

**COMMACK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
HUBBS ADMINISTRATION CENTER

480 Clay Pitts Road  
East Northport, NY 11731  
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DR. DONALD A. JAMES  
*Superintendent of Schools*

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 150  
Commack, NY 11725

December 11, 2014

NYS Board of Regents  
c/o Anthony Lofrumento, Secretary to the Board  
NYS Education Department  
Board of Regents, Room 110 EB  
89 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12234

Dear Members of the New York State Board of Regents:

On behalf of the Commack Union Free School District, I am writing to express the District's opposition to the Proposed Amendment of Sections 100.2, 100.3 and 100.4 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to School Participation in NYS Field Tests as outlined in the November 10, 2014, memo to the P-12 Committee from Ken Wagner, which explains that the Board of Regents has recently discussed whether or not "to make explicit the requirement that public schools, including charter schools, and nonpublic schools that administer State assessments, participate in the field tests essential to the development of fair and valid New York State operational assessments for students in Grades 3-12 as may be prescribed by the Commissioner."

Although we understand the State's need to field test questions for use on future-mandated State assessments, it is our contention that the State must find some other, less coercive, and burdensome means to accomplish this endeavor. Please know that our opposition is firmly rooted in the fact that the administration of field tests adds to the diminution of valuable instructional time; students are currently over-tested as a result of mandated, annual State assessments; and we contend that many students are introduced to a level of test-stress that is developmentally inappropriate and unnecessary. Mandating field tests only adds to the issues indicated above.

We appreciate the Board's consideration of our opposition.

Sincerely,

Donald James, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Attachment: 5/30/14 letter refusing field tests

# COMMACK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HUBBS ADMINISTRATION CENTER

480 Clay Pitts Road

East Northport, NY 11731

DR. ADELE PECORA, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT  
FOR CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION & ASSESSMENT

DATE: May 30, 2014

Dear Ms. Morris,

Over the last two years, Commack UFSD has complied with the requests of the New York State Education Department to administer field tests. During Spring 2013, we tested students in Physics, Algebra 2/Trig, Geometry, Grade 6 Math, Grade 5 ELA and Grade 5 Math. This year so far we have administered field tests in Common Core Algebra, Geometry, Earth Science and Grade 4 Science. Our students are at the point of assessment saturation given these tests in conjunction with other APPR and NYSED mandated assessments.

I am respectfully informing you that we will not be administering the Grade 6 Math Field Test at Commack Middle School and the Grade 4 ELA Field Test at Mandracchia Sawmill Intermediate School. I understand the purpose of the field tests; however, the Commack UFSD has simply been asked to administer too many assessments.

Sincerely,

Adele Pecora, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent for  
Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment