

FIELD TESTING

The Clarkstown Central School District is always focused on creating learning environments that support the whole child. The District has worked collaboratively with teachers, support staff, administrators and the community to create an environment that ensures that the needs of all students are being met and that children find joy in learning.

The Clarkstown Central School District Board of Education believes that the overreliance on high-stakes standardized testing in state systems is undermining educational quality and equity in U.S. public schools by hampering educators' efforts to focus on the broad range of learning experiences that promote the innovation, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and deep subject-matter knowledge that will allow students to thrive in a democracy and an increasingly global society and economy.

As such, the recent proposal to mandate the administration of New York State Field Tests will only compound the adverse impact the testing system is having on our children, parents and school community.

As a result, I make the following motion:

WHEREAS, it is widely recognized that standardized testing is an inadequate and often unreliable measure of both student learning and educator effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, the over-emphasis on standardized testing has caused considerable collateral damage in too many schools; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Education Department representatives have shared that “stand alone field testing are simply not reliable or statically valid”; and

WHEREAS, high-stakes standardized testing has negative effects for students from all backgrounds, and especially for low-income students, English language learners, children of color, and those with disabilities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Clarkstown Central School District calls on the acting NYS Commissioner of Education, the NYS State legislature, and the NYS Board of Regents to reconsider the recommendation to mandate the administration of field tests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clarkstown Central School District calls on the Board of Regents to reject any regulation to mandate public schools to participate in stand-alone field tests.