

**Evelyne Gibson, Parent**

"We live in a very competitive school district (Byram Hills). Our son had an average of a 97% in math. He never got tutored or learned much for this subject since math is fairly easy for him. The state test was designed in a way that he ended up with a 75% score, lowering his overall math grade for 9th Grade to an A (instead of an A+). It makes no sense that that kids in competitive school districts don't do well in a test because it is designed to be just tricky. I can't see how that would help low performing districts.

Teaching in our school seems to shift. Now the aim is to do well at these tests.

A school which has such a high rate of kids going to college should be able to opt out of this testing. Our public school needs to be able to continue on its path of creating highly educated children. Instead they end up spending valuable resources training teachers to train our kids to do well in these ever changing tests.

These tests might have value to identify failing schools, however ours is not one of them. It therefore needs to be able to exclude itself from testing.

We are coming from Switzerland, which has an education system that is very highly regarded. Public testing is not one of the reasons for that. Paying teachers better, maybe in form of a tax exemption, or other benefits (as Senators get for example) would be a better way to attract top talent that is highly motivated to this profession. Teachers are key to well educated children."