

Testing Survey

Dear families,

For the past two years PS 261 has had a relatively large percentage of students opt out of the standardized State ELA and Math exams. Last year more students opted out of these exams than took them.

It is your right as a parent to opt your child out of the state exams. Parents do so for a variety of reasons. If you would like more information about why parents opt out or how to do so, you can visit this website: <http://www.optoutnyc.com/>. You can view sample questions for the ELA and Math tests at these websites:

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/released-2016-3-8-ela-and-mathematics-state-test-questions>

Students at PS 261 who do choose to opt out of the state tests are given an alternative assessment designed by their grade's team of teachers. The teacher-designed ELA assessment is a series of reading passages with multiple choice, short written response and extended written response questions. The teacher-designed math test is a comprehensive assessment of all of the material we have studied so far this year. These assessments are scored by your child's teacher and returned to you within about a month. We also use them to plan small group instruction.

In order to plan for approximately how many students might be taking the state tests or the teacher-designed assessment this year, we are asking that you please cut off, fill out, and return the survey below. This is in no way a final commitment, it's just so we can have a general sense of the plans of the class as a whole between now and testing time.

As your child's teachers, we will support you in whatever decision you think is best for your child. As always, if you have any questions please contact us at tara.mchugh@ps261brooklyn.org

Sincerely,
Tara and Tamiko

Child's Name: _____ **Date:** _____

- My child will be sitting for the New York State English Language Arts exam and Math exam.
- My child will be opting out of the New York State English Language Arts exam and Math exam. I would like my child to take the teacher-designed assessment.
- I am undecided. I need more information.