

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter is in response to and acknowledgement of your letter or email informing the Half Hollow Hills School District that your son or daughter will not be participating in the New York State English Language Arts and Math state assessment. ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) requires that every state assess all students in English Language Arts and Math each year in grades 3-8 each year and at least once in high school.

Please be assured that the District's primary concern is the educational success of its students. The District is obligated to determine your child's need for academic intervention services (AIS) through the use of other measures. These measures include, but are not limited to, prior New York State Assessment scores, local formal and informal assessments, teacher observations and reports, grades or progress monitoring. The District will review the information provided by these alternative measures and determine whether your child will require AIS during the following school year.

During the administration of the assessment(s), your child will be provided with grade-appropriate literature in lieu of the assessments. I hope the above has clarified any outstanding questions you have about your child's participation in state assessments and the District's continuing obligation to determine their eligibility for AIS in the event that they do not participate.

Sincerely,

Diana Ketcham  
Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education

John O'Farrell  
Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education