

COMMON CORE - Smarter Balanced (SBAC)

Pilot Testing Begins in a Few Short Days

Submit Your OPT OUT Form NOW



March 21, 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian,

If you have not yet filled out and submitted your Opt Out form to protect your child's privacy, now is the time.

Parents are receiving notice from schools describing an "exciting" computer-administered Smarter Balance (SBAC) assessment, a pilot test to be given very soon.

Enclosed is an updated (Spring 2014) opt-out form along with helpful parent instructions. It is recommended that you save this printed form (with blue border) as a master copy and use it to make photo copies for yourself and other parents you know who also wish to protect their children from intrusive data mining through testing. This Opt Out form is the most effective way to keep the education establishment, the federal government and Common Core aligned partner companies from mining, storing and sharing your child's personal data.

The Opt Out form protects your child (and you) for the entire school year from participating in data mining of your family's most sensitive information through surveys and assessments (tests). The legal citations are stated on the Opt Out form.

What you need to know about these assessment tests is that:

- 1. The SBAC is voluntary.** *Non-English Speaking families are at a huge disadvantage and have not been made aware of their legal right to opt out of this test.*
- 2. You have a legal right to opt out.** *The PJI (Pacific Justice Institute) Opt Out form alerts the school that you have asserted your legal right to preclude your child from assessments, tests, surveys and all other privacy risks for the entire school year.*
- 3. There is no academic benefit to students, and parents are not allowed to see the results.** *These tests are given for the benefit of private for-profit schoolbook, test and survey publishers. These tests are market studies in which students are expected to participate...in other words, work for free. They will not be paid or otherwise compensated for this service.*
- 4. TESTS WILL NOT COUNT TOWARD GRADES** *Taking or refusing the test has no effect on grades or your child's progression to the next school year.*
- 5. IT IS A CRIME PUNISHABLE BY LAW for the school to take retribution against the child or the parents for not participating in these voluntary tests, surveys and assessments.**

Student privacy protection laws which had been in place for nearly 40 years under a statute known as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), limited the types of data which could be collected and with whom it could be shared. In order for Common Core and the accompanying assessments to serve their purpose, massive amounts of data are required by the testing companies that designed the Common Core tests (in CA, Smarter Balanced (SBAC)). So, in 2011, the U.S. Dept. of Education bypassed legislation and any order of due process and altered this law, behind closed doors, to allow student data to be collected, stored and shared with virtually any third party **without parental knowledge or consent**. This data includes student ID number, social security number and/or biometric records which includes fingerprints, retina and iris (eye) patterns, voiceprint, DNA sequence, etc. In all, over 400 data points can be collected (personally identifying every student), and is then placed into a Statewide Longitudinal Database (SLDS) **by federal mandate**, and allows for third parties to view, collect and/or purchase this sensitive data, which also remains on your child's record.

Data entered on your child's record is permanent. What does this mean? Suppose your teen or pre-teen does something... stupid. Haven't we all? If the offense is considered a crime in the criminal justice system, a child's record is sealed when he/she reaches the age of 18. That same offense committed in the school system, however, stays on their record **forever**. The federal government has already expressed its intention to make this data available to the colleges which students are supposed to be prepared for (we also dispel this myth) and to future employers.

We strongly encourage you to opt your child out following the enclosed instructions today. This opt-out form is free legal protection for your child and family in every school and district in the State of California.

This is NOT a war on our schools. We love our teachers and principals. Opting out now will ultimately protect teachers and prevent them from being subjected to the unfair evaluations and accountability mandated by the federal government. Teachers, principals and administrators across the United States have expressed their disapproval of every aspect of the Common Core initiative.

Common Core Standards is an untested, unproven method of instruction with no evidence to support favorable outcome. On the contrary, alarmed by these harmful, developmentally inappropriate standards, respected early childhood development professionals reported their findings to the NGA and CCSSO (copyright owners) in 2010... *during the writing phase*. Despite evidence supporting their position, the “grave concerns” of these field experts were completely ignored.* Presently, due to public outrage, more than half of the states that hastily signed on have now reversed their decision and are taking measures to pull out of Common Core completely. Microsoft’s Bill Gates, whose foundation has contributed hundreds of millions of dollars to the development of Common Core, said, ***“It would be great if our education stuff worked, but we won’t know for probably a decade.”*** And in case you didn’t hear it the first time, he went on, “We don’t know if it will work.”

We will not allow our children to be used as guinea pigs for this untried, untested, unproven overhaul of the education system, or to be used as unpaid market study test subjects for huge corporate test and textbook publishers, will we?

Concerned Parents of Elk Grove is an advocacy group with contacts throughout the U.S., and works every single day to gather verifiable facts to inform parents, grandparents, educators, and residents of California and across the United States of the truth about Common Core State Standards and the accompanying tests. Should you have questions need help with the form or require translation service, please contact us by phone (916) 721-1662, or ConcernedParentsofEG@gmail.com or visit us at www.facebook.com/ConcernedParentsofEG. Our next public meeting for parents and teachers is Thurs, April 17, 2014, 7:00pm at Holiday Inn Express, 9175 West Stockton Blvd. Elk Grove, CA, 95758. Please plan to attend.

This testing begins the process of collecting massive amounts of intrusive data on you, your child, your friends and neighbors. REMEMBER, the only safe data is data that we do not surrender. No government agency or private company will ever guarantee the security and appropriate use of data they collect. Please, opt out today.

TESTING BEGINS SOON. DO NOT WAIT...SUBMIT YOUR OPT OUT FORM TODAY.

Sincerely,

Concerned Parents of Elk Grove

*“Power concedes nothing without a demand.
It never did and it never will.
Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have found out
the exact measure of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them.”*

Fredrick Douglass (1818 – 1895) author, diplomat, former slave

***“The most common way people give up their power
is by thinking they don’t have any”***

Alice Walker, novelist, activist, Nobel Prize winner

*“Arbitrary power is most easily established
on the ruins of liberty abused to licentiousness.”*

George Washington, Circular to the States, May 9, 1753

* Joint Statement of Early Childhood Health and Education Professionals on the Common Core Standards Initiative
http://www.allianceforchildhood.org/sites/allianceforchildhood.org/files/file/Joint%20Statement%20on%20Core%20Standards_%28417%29.pdf