Dear Parents/Guardians:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter indicating your intent not to have your child participate in any New York State Assessments, pre-assessment, benchmark exams, surveys or "field tests" (collectively "Assessments") during the 2018-2019 school year.

The District has received inquiries regarding the "opt out" or test refusal movement, and as such, would like to share the following information with you prior to the start of the testing period. Please carefully review and consider the information below.

- As always, students who do take the assessments should be encouraged to do their best without any additional pressure. Lindenhurst students are expected to try their best every day. These testing events are no different.
- Students should not concern themselves with the thought of any consequences to themselves, their teachers, or their schools, when taking state assessments. They should just demonstrate their capabilities.
- A test cannot be coded as a refusal once it has been started. If a student begins a state assessment, he or she will receive a score, even if he/she subsequently refuses to take the test. A test that is started but not complete due to refusal will receive a low score that is considered by the New York State Education Dept. to be a valid test score.
- There is absolutely no penalty for students who refuse to take the state assessments. State performance data is included when making placement decisions, however, such decisions can be made using other performance data from the classroom in the absence of state data.
- Students who refuse the test(s) should bring appropriate reading materials to school on testing days.

Very truly yours,

Daniel E. Giordano
Superintendent of Schools