

High stakes, in person testing in a pandemic? **JUST SAY NO.**  
*¿pruebas estandarizadas, en la escuela durante una pandemia? **SOLO DI NO.***

RI Statewide Standardized Tests <i>Pruebas estandarizadas para todo Rhode Island</i>	
<b>WIDA Access for ELLs</b> January 4 - March 12, 2021 (Districts choose dates within this testing window) (Distritos eligen fechas dentro de fechas de prueba)	<b>RICAS</b> March 29 - May 28, 2021 (Districts choose dates within this testing window) (Distritos eligen fechas dentro de fechas de prueba)

RI Families: OPT OUT <i>Familias de Rhode Island: optar por no</i>
It's EASY! <i>Es fácil!</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Email your child's principal. <i>Enviar un email al director de la escuela</i></li></ul> <p><i>"I want to let you know I do not want my child, <b>[name]</b>, to take part in the <b>[name the standardized exam]</b> this year. Please create another instructional plan for my student during testing periods."</i></p> <p><i>"Quiero decirles que no quiero que mi hijo, <b>[nombre]</b>, participe en el <b>[nombre del examen estandarizado]</b> este año. Por favor cree otro plan de instrucción para mi estudiante durante los períodos de prueba "</i></p>

RI Teachers: SPEAK UP
<p>1) <b>Contact Commissioner Infante-Green</b> (<a href="mailto:angelica.infantegreen@ride.ri.gov">angelica.infantegreen@ride.ri.gov</a>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Be prepared to speak up at next RIDE meeting, date TBD</li><li>Email her</li></ul> <p><i>"As a concerned Rhode Island <b>(parent, teacher, student, administrator, resident)</b>, I am asking that you seek a federal waiver for all in person standardized testing this school year. Rhode Island is one of many states right now with uncontrolled community spread of the virus, and the more</i></p>

*contagious COVID variant may reach our state at any time. With all these things in mind, it's irresponsible to willingly endanger the health of RI teachers, students and families, particularly those from already hard hit communities. Now is not the time for business as usual. During these unprecedented times, RIDE must be flexible in order to prioritize the safety of RI students, families, teachers, and staff. We understand that this instruction to test comes from the federal level, but you are the intermediary between the RI school community and that level and we are asking you to intercede for us."*

- 2) **Contact your state reps.** (Find yours [here](#))
  - Request they petition Commissioner Infante-Green to seek federal waivers for 2020/21 mandated testing.
- 3) **Contact your superintendent and building level leadership.**
  - Ask them to clearly inform families of their rights and risks ahead of testing
  - AND put pressure on the commissioner to seek federal waivers
  - AND to schedule testing for as late as possible in the window, or seek an extension for testing windows
- 4) **Get on social media.**
  - Tell parents in your circles that they have the right to opt out
  - Tell people what high stakes testing actually looks like in the classroom
  - Retweet on Twitter from **@safereturnri** and Share on FB from **"R.I. Parents / Educators for Safe Schools"**

## Myths

Schools can lose federal funding for opting out.

[No school has ever lost federal funding due to opt outs.](#)

Since tests are mandated, students must take them.

ESSA authorizes parents' right to opt their child out.

RIDE / Rhode Island DOES NOT have an opt out policy. Decisions about opting out are made at the district level - and no, the district cannot legally mandate that your child take a test.

**Opt-out Questions:**

*Q: Can parent opt students out of testing?*

A: RIDE does not have a state policy for opting out of testing. Any policy decisions about opting out are made at the district level. RIDE expects that all students will participate in the tests for their grade level and students who do not will be considered non-participants for accountability purposes.

Tests are an important way for schools to make instructional decisions

Schools don't receive RICAS scores until mid-year the following school year, well after teachers have used informal assessments to make instructional decisions for your child.

AND Wida offers informal assessment tools to place children that are routinely used with newcomers outside of testing windows and could easily be used at BOY 21/22 to group ELLs.