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**Council Votes on Including Right to Opt Out  
in Parents' Bill of Rights**

*2015 State Tests begin the week of April 14*

*Many parents do not know they have the right to opt out of high stakes testing*

*Legislation would also require Bill of Rights be distributed to  
all parents at the start of every school year*

Tomorrow, March 31st, the City Council will vote on Res. 577-2015, which will amend the Department of Education's Parents' Bill of Rights and Responsibilities to include the right to opt out of standardized tests and will require the Bill of Rights to be distributed to all parents at the beginning of every school year. The bill's prime sponsors are Council Members Helen Rosenthal and Daniel Dromm (Chair, Committee on Education).

2015 State Tests begin the week of April 14.

While the Department of Education has in place a Parents' Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, there is currently no system or policy in place for regularly distributing the document to parents. In addition, while parents have the right to

opt out of high stakes testing, many parents are not aware of this right, and it is not currently included in the Parents' Bill of Rights.

This "right to know" bill calls for transparency and equal access to information for all public school parents and guardians, regardless of the school their children attend.

"Parent involvement is critical to student success in school," said **Council Member Helen Rosenthal**. "The DOE Parents' Bill of Rights and Responsibilities would be a great way to keep parents informed and engaged – if parents knew it existed. Our Resolution asks the DOE to distribute the Parents' Bill of Rights at the beginning of every school year, including their right and the implications of their child "opting-out" of standardized tests, so parents are equipped to make the best choices for their child."

"Every parent has the right to opt their child out of the high stress and high stakes New York State English and Math tests; however, not every parent knows this," said **City Council Education Committee Chairperson Daniel Dromm**. "Making sure this right is added into the Parents' Bill of Rights and Responsibilities and that these copies of these rights are equally distributed to every parent is imperative for inclusivity and transparency in our schools. I know as a former teacher that involving parents is integral to their child's success in school. I thank Council Member Helen Rosenthal for working with me on this issue."

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