



## Letter Regarding Student Participation in Statewide Assessments

Each year in a school's cycle, the spring assessments bring a certain level of anxiety to our students and parents. In light of the political debates that have been occurring in Indianapolis over the last two weeks, a heightened sense of stress has been created this year in particular.

Schools were initially instructed that the 2015 ISTEP+ assessments would take approximately twelve hours for students to complete. The public was later informed that revisions to this 12-hour schedule were mandated by Governor Pence, and the Indiana Department of Education has been working diligently to shorten the length of this year's testing window. Unfortunately, we still do not know exactly what this revised testing schedule will entail.

The Greenfield-Central Community Schools are scheduled to begin participating in "Practice Tests" during the week of February 17th. Our schools do plan to adhere to this original timeline for our students. I would like you to understand that our practice sessions will include some timed testing components, as well as some guided teaching experiences for our students.

As a result of the aforementioned *debates*, a few of our school principals have been questioned about a parental request to "opt-out" of this upcoming standardized testing experience for their children. Please note that the state of Indiana does not have an "opt-out" provision in the law that would allow a parent to withdraw his/her student(s) from this obligatory experience. Therefore, Greenfield-Central expects all students in grades 3-8 to participate in ISTEP+ testing, and all high school students to participate in the applicable End of Course Assessments.

All Indiana public schools are required to administer ISTEP+ assessments each spring as one way to monitor student mastery of Indiana College and Career Readiness Standards. The tests have historically been used to measure levels of achievement and growth for individual students, teachers, schools, and corporations. Therefore, it is imperative that all students arrive at school rested and ready to do their "personal best" on each assessment, every day.

Please observe that the official testing window is scheduled for March 2-11. Each school will announce their respective testing dates and times approximately two weeks prior to commencing.

Your cooperation in this challenging experience is appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harold E. Olin".

Dr. Harold E. Olin  
Superintendent of Schools