**Sample letter on opting out of standardized tests**

Dear parents and guardians,

In Massachusetts, the major associations representing educators, school committees and administrators are strongly in support of suspending MCAS testing this year. They argue that testing will take precious time away from learning to produce results that are not valid or helpful. Despite those arguments, the state and federal governments still plan on subjecting students to days of stressful testing, just as schools are opening their doors to more in-person learning.

**But what if they gave a test and nobody came?** Except for students in the Class of 2022 and beyond -**—** who must pass grade 10 MCAS tests to graduate **—** there are no good reasons for students to take the MCAS this year. In addition, there will be no negative consequences for schools or districts if students choose to read or work on projects rather than take these tests.

**Even though the state is required to *administer* MCAS and ACCESS — a test for English learners — there is nothing in state law that requires students to *take* these tests.**

It’s very simple to opt your child out. Just write an email or a letter to your school principal notifying them of your intention. Your email can be short and sweet. Here’s an example: “I would like to opt my child [NAME] out of MCAS [or ACCESS] testing this year. Thank you.” Go to *citizensforpublicschools.org* for more information on your opt-out rights.

You have the power to decide what is best for your child. We encourage you to talk with your children and make the decision that is right for them.

Thank you,