

SIX THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT PUBLIC EDUCATION

FROM ANDREW CUOMO AND BETSY DEVOS

- ❶ Consider whether your middle school child should take or refuse the upcoming New York State tests. **Refusing, or "opting out," is a clear and effective form of resistance.** If you are ready to take that step, along with hundreds of thousands of other New York families—including many, many here at ICE—there is an **opt out letter** in your packet. Want to read more before deciding? Read ***Why to Continue Opting Out in 2017*** (scroll to bottom of [this page for download link](#)) and ***What Has Opt Out Accomplished?***—also in your packet.
- ❷ Let the governor know in no uncertain terms that his proposed budget will **starve New York City's kids** and that its support of charter expansion at the cost of public schools is one Betsy DeVos would be mighty proud of. The most effective way to do this is a call (518-474-8390)—should take only a minute or two) or by plugging in to his contact form (google "Contact Governor Cuomo"). Or you can send an [email via the Network for Public Education](#), possibly less effective than a direct appeal but easy. Tell all your friends to do this, too.
- ❸ While you are online, take an extra minute to [sign the petition](#) that seeks permission for teachers to be able to read the standardized tests they administer to children. Yes, believe it or not, this is a thing.
- ❹ Lace up your shoes and hit the pavement for the **March for Educational Justice** on March 4. Simultaneous marches are being planned in many NY cities. Let's drum up a contingent from ICE! Contact 7th grade parent Janice Bloom (Janice.bloom@gmail.com) to represent.
- ❺ **Join ICE PAC!** We specifically need: 6th, 7th, and 8th grade parent reps to coordinate our opt out campaign and—new position!—Betsy D Watchdog: someone who will keep his or her eye on news and actions regarding the new Secretary of Ed so we aren't caught off guard. Contact kemala@nycpublic.org
- ❻ **Stay informed** by reading about the latest news and actions from the perspective of public education activist groups. If you Facebook, look for and/or join the pages of any or all of these organizations: [NYC Opt Out](#), [Change the Stakes](#), [New York State Allies for Public Education](#), [Network for Public Education](#), [Class Size Matters](#), [Public School Watchdogs](#). If you tweet, ditto. Most of these groups also have e-mailing lists you can subscribe to, if you prefer. Also: [noidcny.org](#) for IDC info.