

April 21, 2014

Dear (Principal) \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_ will be refusing the FCAT on Day 1 of Reading(dates) and Day 1 of Math(dates).

The procedure he has been instructed to follow is:

He will sit for the test.

He will politely refuse to sign the Test Rules Acknowledgement.

He will "break the seal" on the FCAT test.

He will slide the test away.

If he is prompted to sign the acknowledgement or to begin the test he is to say "No thank you". Only one reminder is needed, anything more would be coercion.

At that time he should be sent to the office where I will be waiting to take him out of school for the duration of the test (70 minutes) and return him in time for regular instruction.

Upon test refusal, he cannot be asked to make up the test. This will accommodate valuable instruction time.

Because he will not take Day 1 of testing, Day 2 is automatically invalidated.

Scenario 1:

Therefore, on Day 2, for each test, I will keep him home during the test window and bring him in late. I do not wish to cause any disruption to your testing procedures. I do need to know what time testing will end so that he will be back in time for regular instruction.

Scenario 2: (Must be pre-arranged)

He will be allowed to go to a non-testing classroom – Kindergarten, First grade, etc. after attendance and will be returned to his classroom after testing is completed.

This procedure will score his test as NR2 - "did not meet attemptedness criteria" per the Florida Department of Education.

Please see the attached account of another parent and the Assistant Principal and testing team at another OCPS elementary school. The school administration received this information (in bold) verbally from Cyndi Landers, OCPS Assessment Department.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with my request.

Sincerely,

Parent Signature

I received a call on Friday, April 11, 2014 from my children's OCPS elementary school.

Next week, they will only be made to refuse FCAT for two days, not all four.

If a student is absent on test days, they CAN and WILL be administered the make up test AT ANYTIME during the testing window, which could be up to 3 weeks, even if the other students have finished testing. Bringing them in late to school is also an absence and will trigger make up testing.

This is how it **must** happen if a student is to be considered to have refused, so that they will not be subject to the make up tests:

**They will be read the test instructions.**

**They will be asked to sign the Test Rules Acknowledgement.**

**All students are required to sign this contract. Even 8 year olds.**

**Students refusing may push the Test Rules Acknowledgment away AND MUST NOT SIGN IT.** The Test Administrator is supposed to notify the school's Testing Coordinator, so there may be a little commotion if the school has not been prepared for this. Per FCAT Instruction Manual - If the student is asked to sign it and the student refuses, the test administrator should make a note of the refusal to sign and move on.

**After they are instructed to open their test and start testing, they must break the seal on the test and refuse** – they should simply push the test away and say, “No thank you.” Any additional prompting from test administrators may be considered coercion or intimidation. **The test security breach is what precludes them from having to sit for the makeup test. Once they have refused, they CANNOT sit for the make up test. The student should NOT write on the test.**

**\*\* At my children's school\*\* after they refuse, on the two days they refuse, they may be removed from the classroom IF the parent requests it IN PERSON**, so I will take them out of school for about an hour and return them in time to resume class after testing is completed for the day. No sense making them sit and stare just because they can cope. Parents need to determine how their child will cope for the four days, if required.

**Because refusing Day 1 test invalidates Day 2, my children's school will not require the kids to refuse on Day 2** also I could just take them to school late, since they would not be made to refuse. But **they will be allowed to go to a non-testing classroom – Kindergarten, First grade, etc.,** so they'll just go to school and actually learn and be useful during testing.

So I will not have to keep them out of school for the entire testing window and they won't have to miss regular instruction. Sanity.

AND – Per our school administration, “This was relayed verbally from Cyndi Landers,” who is in charge of the OCPS Student Assessment Dept. This is a pretty big deal considering how literally OCPS has interpreted the test administration rules until now. It's a pleasant surprise to see common sense being put into practice, especially with our younger students.