Dear Board of Education, Superintendent, Principals, and Teachers of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ school district,

We are writing today to formally inform the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ school district of our decision to refuse to allow our child \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to participate in any local assessments tied to CCRPI, TKES or LKES, for the 2017-2018 school year. My child will be scored as a “refusal” on all state and local testing.

Our refusal should in no way reflect on the teachers, administration, or school board. This was not an easy decision for us, but we feel that we have no other choice. We simply see these tests as harmful, expensive, unfair, and a waste of time and valuable resources.

This year we will show effort to eliminate unnecessary and harmful assessments in our public schools. Our child will not participate in any assessments other than those solely for the use of the individual classroom teacher. Please understand that the COGAT, ITBS and any other tests written by the teacher we believe to be acceptable instruments for evaluation, therefore, we are comfortable having \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ take these tests.

We refuse to allow any data to be used for purposes other than the individual teacher’s own formative or cumulative assessment. Any assessment whose data is used to determine school ranking, teacher effectiveness, state or federal longitudinal studies or any other purpose other than for the individual classroom teacher’s own use to improve his or her instruction will not be presented to our child.

To be clear, our children will not participate in the following:

* Any so-called “benchmark” (District Assessments) exams whether they are teacher-designed or not, since these exams are imposed by entities other than the individual teacher.
* Pre and post assessments connected to “Student Learning Objectives” or any other assessments mandated by the Governor’s office.
* The Georgia Milestones (score as “Present, Did Not Attempt”)
* No Milestones prep test booklets or online practice tests
* Any progress-monitoring or RTI assessments such as AIMSweb, MAP, STAR or any other program used.
* Any OAS or adaptive testing done in computer/tablet labs.
* Any exam used to formulate an evaluation or score for our children’s teachers or their school.
* Any survey or “inventory”, electronic or paper, not designed by my child’s teacher to be used in classroom instruction.
* Any fitness or nutrition information (Fitnessgrams) that includes my child’s height, weight and/or BMI. They can participate in the exercises but their data may not be recorded.
* Any online programs or applications that require any personal information or that maintain student data in any form.
* Any “confidentiality” agreements or coerced silence about testing or test content.
* Do not use my child’s personal information on data walls.
* Do not perform hearing or vision testing on my child.
* Do not perform any type of emotional or mental assessment on my child.

We believe in and trust our highly qualified and dedicated teachers. We hope our efforts will be understood in the context in which they are intended: to support the quality of instruction promoted by the school, and to advocate for what is best for all children.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ school should have a unified policy in place to address children who are refusing these assessments. We are requesting that the school make accommodations for an alternate location during the Georgia Milestones Test and our child should not have to “sit and stare” in the same room as the test takers. We have no wish to complicate the situation nor increase the teacher’s workload. We will be happy to provide our child with educational materials and activities to keep them quietly busy during testing. We will be happy to volunteer to keep the students not testing supervised and busy, or in any other capacity to facilitate our request. Please let us know how we can help.

With most districts receiving a waiver for retention/promotion laws, we expect our child to be promoted or retained based on the whole of his/her work throughout the year, not on the basis of a single test. This letter also serves as my appeal for any attempt to retain my child due to our refusal of the Milestones.

Furthermore, we must be guaranteed in writing that our child will not face any negative consequences to course grades, social or behavioral evaluations, workload, promotion, or future classroom assignments.

Please acknowledge this refusal to

[\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.com](mailto:_________________________@_________.com) and please inform us where \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

will be during Milestones testing.

We do apologize in advance for the inconvenience this decision may cause the administration, the school, and staff.

Respectfully,