

BRAD HOYLMAN
27TH SENATE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE

322 EIGHTH AVENUE, SUITE 1700
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001
PHONE: (212) 633-8052
FAX: (212) 633-8096

ALBANY OFFICE

ROOM 413
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG.
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
PHONE: (518) 455-2451
FAX: (518) 426-6846

E-MAIL: HOYLMAN@NYSenate.GOV
WEBSITE: HOYLMAN.NYSenate.GOV



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER:

CONSUMER PROTECTION
INVESTIGATIONS &
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

COMMITTEES:

CODES
CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME &
CORRECTION
CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM,
PARKS & RECREATION
JUDICIARY

April 11, 2014

Dear PS 41 Community:

Thank you for organizing this morning's rally.

I stand with you in solidarity in opposition to high-stakes testing, in particular its use as a measure of student learning, teacher effectiveness, and school performance. I strongly agree that we need to broaden our understanding of education, move away from "teaching to the test," and relieve the pressure on our students.

I'm pleased that legislation (S.4764-A) I co-sponsor prohibiting high-stakes, standardized testing for schoolchildren in pre-K through second grade was enacted as part of the state budget passed on March 31. I'm also happy that the budget placed a three-year moratorium on using state English Language Arts and Math test scores for children in grades 3 - 8. I've also raised questions about the practice of field testing, which the budget directs the State Education Commissioner to take actions to reduce.

We also need to address student privacy. The budget prevents the State from sharing students' personal data with any "shared learning infrastructure service provider," and I am encouraged that the State has terminated its ill-conceived plan to store confidential student data with inBloom. However, I think the prohibition in the budget is too narrow, the penalties too weak, and parental rights too limited to ensure the sanctity of student data. I'll continue to work to pass legislation that implements strong safeguards for sensitive student data.

I'd love to know any thoughts you have on this issue. Feel free to contact me at 212-633-8052 or hoylman@nysenate.gov.

All best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Hoylman".

Brad Hoylman
New York Senate
27th District

