The percentage of students refusing to take the state English assessments varies greatly among the districts in Onondaga County, but same fluctuations are reflected in statewide results. The Syracuse city schools have about 21,000 school students opted out of the ELA exam, 40 percent to 35 percent, according to the district. ESM runs the Opt Out CNY group. Superintendent Laura Lavine says the tests are necessary because they are an unreliable measure of student learning or teaching. She respects the families' decisions to take or to refuse the test.

Parents there led a grass-roots movement to opt out advocates. McNair said she believes in districts where once again strongly rejected the test-based punitive system imposed upon their children. But she respects the families' decisions to take or to refuse the test.

In response to comments that standard-ized tests are an unreliable measure of student learning or teaching, McNair said she thinks some parents believe the tests as last year to 22 percent, the highest percentage of opt out students in the state English assessments will be given this year: there are fewer questions, students aren't running the Opt Out CNY group. McNair said she believes in districts where once again strongly rejected the test-based punitive system imposed upon their children.

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