Date

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that our child, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, will not be participating in the VA SOL testing during the current school year. We have chosen to opt-out of the state standardized testing. Virginia state law does not require SOL scores as a precursor to advancing to the next grade level.

We are opposed to high stakes testing for many reasons. The emphasis on SOL scores corrupts the learning process and forces teachers to “teach to the test.” There’s no room for important teachable moments because teachers must stick to the pacing guide in order to prepare for said tests. The testing culture causes anxiety in children, as they are constantly tested; given multiple choice worksheets for test preparation, benchmark tests and practice tests in order to “prepare” for the SOL tests.

We find it unfortunate that so many parents and children do not understand that this state testing is not related to the overall performance of a student. Many are under the impression that an entire year’s worth of work and study and learning isn’t as important as the results of one assessment.

We do not wish for the administration or teachers to see this as an affront to the school in particular, but merely as an unfortunate result of our choice to exercise our right to opt-out of what we feel to be a harmful practice that is not supported by educational research as a measure of student learning and progress.

In conclusion, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will not be participating in state mandated standardized testing. This is to include any make up testing for the VA SOL tests.

Thank you.

In the best interests of my children,