Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

 RE: Parental Refusal of STAAR

Thank you for acknowledging the receipt of my opt-out letter.

As I am sure you know, for many years, the TEA has published directions to campuses on how to proceed with students who decline to participate in assessment. The TEA instructs the campuses to submit refused assessments for scoring. While we, of course, disagree with this approach from the TEA, we do appreciate that you, as a local campus are required to do this.

We also appreciate the consistent guidance from the TEA over the last two years that this procedure does not require a local campus to engage in a test of wills with a student or confrontation with a parent. Rather, the campus is permitted to accept a parental refusal as sufficient evidence of refusal and submit the assessment for scoring without requiring the student to physically or verbally engage with the assessment program or the proctor.

I am writing to ask that we work together to fulfill this approach in a manner that meets your obligations to your regulator and honors my decision as a parent. [If it would be helpful from an assessment administration standpoint for me to keep my child home on the primary testing dates, I am willing to do so.] I will also sign documents necessary to maintain your local record that the student was offered the opportunity to be assessed but that the parent declined this opportunity.

While we may disagree (or not) about the usefulness of STAAR assessment, I will respect that the state places certain obligations on you. I trust you will also respect that where the state permits local districts to honor parental decisions, it is best to work together toward that end.

Please accept this letter as my refusal of my child’s participation in the [Subject][EOC/STAAR] assessment. I acknowledge that the TEA will require you to submit a blank assessment for scoring. I ask you to acknowledge that this will be done without placing the assessment in front of my child or otherwise requiring [them/him/her] to enter the assessment room or refuse in person.

Please confirm that we can proceed with this approach. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

[Parent]