

Connect with Heights Coalition for Public Education

If you share our concerns, please add your voice. Visit <http://chuh.net/coalition/> to endorse the position and to find out others who are speaking up.

Other Activism About Testing and

2017-18 Events

At Cleveland Heights High School So-
from 7-9 PM

Oct 10—Movie Screening “Backpack Full of Cash” narrated by Matt Damon

January __ - Article Discussions Part 1

February—Article Discussions Part 2

February - Article Discussions Part 3

Free child care available by reservation.
Call 216.321.0020

Privatization:

- Networkforpubliceducation.org
- Coalitionforpubliceducation.org
- <http://dianeravitch.com/what-you-can-do/>
- <http://www.fairtest.org/>
- Parentsacrossamerica.org

Corporate Reform Will NOT Improve Education!

Students are not commodities and schools should not be businesses.

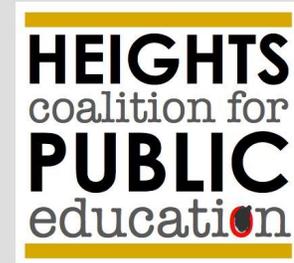
Privatization abandons the common good and ignores the cornerstone of our democracy.

High stakes testing is not the answer.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Twenty years after an Ohio court first decided *DeRolph v. Ohio* and found Ohio’s system of school funding unconstitutional, many of the core problems remain. The 2018-2019 biennial budget continues a trend by which the state’s contribution to its 610 school districts has increased by a statewide average of only 1 percent each year, a growth rate that has not kept pace with inflation. The state has reduced income taxes, eliminated the estate tax, and has now, in the new budget, fully eliminated one local funding stream on which school districts depended---a tangible personal property tax on business inventory and equipment. All this has left school districts increasingly reliant on local property tax levies.

Reference: Jim Siegel’s piece in the August 15, 2017 *Columbus Dispatch*. <http://www.dispatch.com/news/20170815/ohios-urban-districts-up-suburbs-down-in-state-funding>



End the war on public education.

We are parents, teachers and members of the Cleveland Heights–University Heights community who are dedicated to a system of public schools that provides all children an education that gives them the opportunity to succeed in life. We believe in our schools, our teachers, our families and our students. State mandated tests are not legitimate measures of the quality of education students experience or our community values. We advocate for the end of state and federal policies that are harming children and public education.

OUR POSITION:

We are dedicated to a *system of public schools* that provide *all children* an education that gives them an equal opportunity to succeed in life. We call on Congress and the Ohio Legislature to end their war on public education and regain a responsible approach to education in a democracy. It is time to:

**Abandon high-stakes testing, which is an invalid use of standardized tests to judge, label and punish children, teachers and schools.*

**Stop transferring public funds to privately run, profit-making charter schools that diminish the common good.*

**Hold our representatives responsible for their constitutional obligation to provide adequate and equitably distributed funds for a thorough education for all children.*

**Return responsibility to teachers – not vendors- for assessing student learning, so they can develop tools that inform instruction, support a broad curriculum, and encourage creative and higher level thinking*

**Value, trust, and invest in the development of teachers as respected professionals.*

What is

HIGH STAKES TESTING?

Federal law requires that school districts administer standardized tests to all children in grades 3 through 8 in math and language arts, and once in high school.

When tests are used to make a long-lasting critical decisions, they are “high stakes.” In Ohio, test results are used in ways that are not legitimate or appropriate, and that are costly to those affected. **It is time to stop using high-stakes tests to:**

- Retain third graders.
- Deny a diploma to high school seniors who have fulfilled all requirements.
- Close or privatize a school, or give students vouchers to private or parochial schools.
- Define the competency of teachers or terminating their contracts.
- Decide whether public education is successful or not.

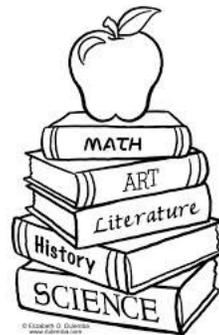
These damaging judgments and sanctions are based on one test score – a single moment in time snapshot of how children answer a multiple choice test—while ignoring a wide range of variables that affect test performance.

How High-Stakes Testing

Undermines Education

It is time to end the misuse of measurement. In reality high stakes testing:

- Consumes scarce education resources – time, funds, and talent—without increasing opportunities to learn
- Narrows curriculum in favor of tested content
- Stifles creativity and engaged learning
- Gives children the wrong idea about why learning matters
- Creates new hurdles for struggling learners
- Makes schools places of high stress and high pressure places
- Demoralizes teachers and communities
- Ignores the real needs that affect student learning.



CHARTER SCHOOLS:

Charter schools are publicly funded, private educational enterprises.

There are more than hundreds of charter schools that enroll children from every school district in Ohio. They have taken more than \$1 billion in public schools funds.

Federal & state laws, with bipartisan support, have offered privatization as a solution to so-called poor performing districts, thus buying in and legitimizing the corporate reform agenda. **Charter schools:**

- Increase segregation and exclude children with the greatest need, i.e., do not serve all children, a core principle of working towards the common good.
- Reduce the financial resources of public schools.
- Destabilizing to communities. When significant numbers of students leave the public schools for unproven charter options, public school enrollments shrink as well as resources available to those who remain, and can mean a community anchor is lost.
- Ohio state law fails to ensure appropriate oversight of charter schools. Precious public resources are transferred to profit-making management companies. Statewide nonprofit agencies that sponsor charter schools collect money, but they are not required to employ experts on education. Many are located across the state from the schools they supposedly oversee.
- Ohio’s online schools have been over-reporting their enrollments for years in order to inflate the amount state money they can collect---tax dollars paid on a per-student basis. Finally in 2015, the state strengthened its enrollment-reporting requirements, but unscrupulous online charter schools continue to block enforcement of the new regulations.