<h1 style="text-align:center">Why High-Stakes Testing Doesn't Make Education Better</h1>

Ohio law now relies on standardized test results to judge, label and sanction children, schools, teachers and communities.

Individual student performance on unreliable standardized tests now defines:

- if a student is learning
- which children will advance to 4th grade
- if a student who has fulfilled all course requirements will receive a diploma.

Group performance on unreliable standardized tests are used to grade

- The quality of teaching
- The quality of education in a school or school district
- If public funds are available to fund tuition to private schools
- The desirability of a community
- Public education as a resource for a democratic society

Can a one day in time snapshot of student performance on a test provide adequate evidence for consequential decisions? Will a system of test and punish make schools better?

Here are some of the faulty assumptions that justify the test and punish policy of school change.

1. Standardized tests accurately measure student learning.
2. It is fair to hold schools accountable for meeting an aspirational goal of 100% proficiency.
3. All students, despite differences in readiness, strengths, and opportunities will perform at the same level on all standardized tests. Schools are failed institutions and children are not achieving if learning outcomes as measured on a test are not uniform.
4. Standardized tests measure what we want education to accomplish.
5. Resources are not relevant to outcomes.
6. Labeling children, teachers, schools, and communities as winners and losers will make schools better.
7. Teachers are solely responsible for student test performance.
8. All children are skilled test takers.
9. Standardized tests are accurate, reliable, and without bias.

These assumptions don't make sense. It is past time to reject high-stakes testing and its destructive attack on the very existence of public education.

Join us! Heights Coalition for Public Education <u>and</u> speak up for public schools.

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