

More Than A Score



REFUSE THE TESTING MADNESS! CREATIVITY, NOT DATA, SHOULD RULE OUR SCHOOLS!

HOW HIGH-STAKES TESTING FAILS STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS:

- CPS students are now being subjected to high-stakes testing *starting in kindergarten*.
- Test scores do not predict learning or future academic success, nor do they measure creative thinking and problem solving.
- Tying tests scores to teacher evaluation forces teachers to "teach to the test," instead of allowing them to tailor instruction to meet each student's unique needs.
- Teachers – not test scores – should determine whether students are promoted. Decisions about a student's readiness to advance to the next grade should be made in consultation with parents.
- Instead of spending money to reduce class sizes; hire teachers, counselors, librarians and supports for the neediest students; and fund after-school programs, enrichment and the arts, CPS wastes valuable public funds on testing, test prep and consultants.
- Ever-increasing amounts of data about students are being collected and put in the hands of 3rd-party vendors without parental consent.

When test scores are used to determine promotion, school closings, and teachers' careers, the stakes are too high! The misuse of tests narrows and distorts the curriculum. All children need high-quality teaching in a healthy atmosphere that fosters the full development of their strengths and talents.

LET'S TAKE THE POWER BACK. HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- You are not alone. Talk to parents and build community against testing in your school. Demand an alternative such as portfolio assessment that reflects student growth.
- Invite an MTAS speaker to your PTO, PAC, or LSC meeting: info@morethanascorechicago.org
- Keep up with us on Facebook and Twitter: More Than A Score, @mtas_chicago.
- Join MORE THAN A SCORE and work to change CPS testing policies (see our website below).
- Opt Out – refuse to have your child take excessive, unnecessary tests. Visit our website for detailed information on opting out. You and your child have the right to refuse high stakes standardized testing. We can help!

www.morethanascorechicago.org

(We gratefully acknowledge the work of www.changethestakes.org in developing this flyer)

Standardized Testing Opt-Out Form

_____ (date)

_____ (name of school)

Dear Principal _____,

I am writing to request that my child(ren)

_____,

be exempted from the following standardized tests for the current school year:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> REACH Performance Tasks | <input type="checkbox"/> Access/ELL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NWEA MAP (reading and math) | <input type="checkbox"/> Explore, Plan, ACT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NWEA MPG (reading and/or math) | <input type="checkbox"/> PSAE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mclass Reading (DIBELS or TRC) | <input type="checkbox"/> HS Interims |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mclass Math | <input type="checkbox"/> COMPASS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IDEL | <input type="checkbox"/> ISAT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other CPS-mandated literacy/numeracy assessments | <input type="checkbox"/> STAR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Core Quarterly Benchmark Performance Tasks | <input type="checkbox"/> NAEP |

During whole class standardized testing I understand that my child(ren) will be provided with appropriate accommodations in order to engage in quiet, self-guided activity like silent reading, drawing or writing so as to not disrupt other students.

Please share this information with any impacted school personnel, including my child(ren)'s classroom teacher(s). I am happy to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

_____ (print parent name)

_____ (parent signature)