

Help Our Students: Less Testing, More Learning

Students are taking many more standardized tests than they used to – up to 113 between pre-K and 12th grade and up to 28 per year in some Boston schools. All this testing takes time from learning, narrows curriculum, leads to teaching to the test and kids turning off from learning and dropping out. We need a new assessment system that supports teaching and learning.

Citizens for Public Schools has launched a statewide campaign to begin to undo the damage.

Our campaign includes:	Who believe in:	
Parents	science	exploration
Students	history	critical thinking
Teachers	art and music	curiosity
Principals/Administrators	theater	love of learning
and many others	reading, writing & math	and childhood

We do **not** seek to stop all testing or public reporting of results by groups. We want to reduce the amount of testing and to stop high-stakes consequences for low scores, which forces schools to put far too much emphasis on standardized tests.

Less Testing, More Learning bills

Our supporters in the legislature have filed a series of bills calling for a moratorium on the use of test scores to punish schools and teachers and to deny high school students their diplomas. One of our bills also affirms the right of parents to opt their children out of these tests. **All of these bills were presented at an Education Committee hearing at the State House on June 11. *And that's just the beginning of an ongoing, statewide political campaign to push for change.*** Find out more about this legislation at bit.ly/lesstestbills.

We are also fighting to stop new testing mandates like the Massachusetts Kindergarten Entry Assessment.

Citizens for Public Schools, the Massachusetts Teachers Association, AFT-MA, Boston Teachers Union, FairTest, the Black Educators Alliance of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Educational Justice Alliance are part of our Less Testing More Learning campaign, along with other parent, student, community and educator groups.

We can make it happen! Join us:

- Sign our online petition at bit.ly/lesstest.
- “Like” our Facebook page, *Less Testing, More Learning MA*, bit.ly/lesstestfacebook.
- Follow us on Twitter: @MoreLearningMA
- Urge your legislators to support the *Less Testing, More Learning* bills.
- Email lesstestingmorelearning@gmail.com to find out more about the campaign.