

JOIN THE MASS. MOVEMENT FOR LESS TESTING, MORE LEARNING!

Help your community pass a resolution calling for a moratorium on high stakes testing

Educators, parents, and students in districts across the Commonwealth have succeeded in getting school committees or other local government bodies to pass resolutions calling for a moratorium on high-stakes testing.

Resolutions have been passed in Worcester, Cambridge, Greenfield, Arlington, Hampshire Regional, and other communities.

These Resolutions are important because they demonstrate public support for a moratorium, especially to help convince state elected officials and education policy makers.

The resolutions call on state and federal officials to immediately adopt a moratorium on all high-stakes uses of standardized tests so that educators, parents and other members of our communities can work together to develop assessment systems that support positive teaching practices and better prepare students for lifelong learning. (For an example, see the back of this flyer, which has the text of a resolution that has been proposed for consideration by the Brookline Town Meeting.)

Would you like to get such a resolution passed in your community? Contact us at lesstestingmorelearning@gmail.com for more information.

Less testing, more learning!



Citizens for Public Schools
Parents, teachers, and other Massachusetts
residents working to improve public education
for all children.
Visit us at www.citizensforpublicschools.org.



To see if the Town will adopt the following Resolution:

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A MORATORIUM ON HIGH-STAKES STANDARDIZED TESTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, our future well-being relies on a high-quality public education system that prepares all students for college, careers, citizenship and lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, our school systems in Massachusetts and across the country have been spending increasing amounts of time, money and energy on high-stakes use of tests and other assessments in which student performance on standardized assessments is used to make major decisions affecting individual students, educators, schools and districts; and

WHEREAS, the over-reliance on high-stakes assessment in state and federal accountability systems is undermining educational quality and equity in U.S. public schools by hampering educators' efforts to focus on the broad range of learning experiences that promote the innovation, creativity, problem-solving, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and deep subject matter knowledge that will allow students to thrive in a democracy and an increasingly global society; and

WHEREAS, it is widely recognized that standardized testing or other standardized assessment is an inadequate and often unreliable measure of both student learning and educator effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, the overemphasis on standardized testing has caused considerable collateral damage in too many schools, including narrowing the curriculum, teaching to the test, reducing a love of learning, pushing students out of school, driving excellent teachers out of the profession, and undermining school climate; and

WHEREAS, high-stakes standardized testing has negative effects on students from all backgrounds, and especially for low-income students, English language learners, children of color, and those with disabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Brookline supports locally developed, authentic assessments written by educators or tailored by them to meet the needs of individual students, and more time for educators to teach and students to learn;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Brookline calls on state and federal officials to immediately adopt a moratorium on all high-stakes use of standardized tests so that educators, parents and other members of our communities can work together to develop assessment systems that support positive teaching practices and better prepare students for lifelong learning; House Bill 340, before the Massachusetts General Court, would impose such a moratorium on high-stakes use of standardized tests in Massachusetts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Brookline expresses its support for a moratorium as stated by transmitting a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, US Secretary of Education, Massachusetts Congressional delegation, Governor of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Secretary of Education, members of the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, President of the Massachusetts Senate, Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, members of the Joint Committee on Education and the Brookline delegation to the Massachusetts General Court.

Or act on anything relative thereto.