The Boston Teachers Union’s Committee on Testing surveyed teachers online in the spring of 2014 and again in the spring of 2015. Those who responded were not necessarily representative of all teachers, so these results are not definitive. However, they do suggest that testing is seriously harming Boston students’ opportunity to learn.

**2014 survey** [177 responses]

“About how many of your classroom days per year are substantially lost to testing?”

![Bar chart showing the distribution of lost classroom days for 2014 survey.]

[31% of respondents reported they lost 21 days or more of classroom time to testing. 24% reported they lost 16 to 20 days to testing.]

“About how much of your instructional time is devoted to test preparation?”

![Bar chart showing the distribution of test preparation time for 2014 survey.]

0% to 1/4 time on test prep; 1/4 to 1/2 time on test prep; 1/2 to 3/4 time on test prep; 3/4 to all time on test prep.
2015 survey [154 responses]

Boston schools use two types of preparatory tests, A-Net and BPS Predictives, in an attempt to raise scores on the state test. Most schools use one or the other. Some use both.

Teachers were asked whether they gave either of these tests to their students. The next question was:

“How many days did you spend giving these tests and preparing your students for them?”

Teachers were asked to list all the standardized tests they administer. Some had very long lists. Then they were asked:

“If you had a choice, which standardized tests, if any, would you administer to your students?”
(Note: These percentages include only teachers who administer the tests: Twenty six percent of teachers who give MCAS would do so if they had a choice. Twenty percent of teachers who give either A-Net or BPS Predictives would do so if they had a choice.)

“Did students lose IEP [special education] services or ESL [English as a second language] instruction [because of PARCC]?”