



School shouldn't do this to our kids

Reason #8: They cause anxiety and stress-related problems

Students are starting to hate school, even more than we did. They break into crying fits, they act out, they throw up on tests, they skip school, they bully or are bullied. Child psychologists report increased incidence of depression, anxiety, and cutting. The increased frequency of tests correlates with increased ADD. Testing puts unnecessary stress on children.

Reason #9: They aren't helpful to teachers

Teachers just don't have access to the important stuff. Teachers can't see the questions or the ways that the students figured out the answers. All they see is a score, which does not give enough information for them to help individual students or change instruction.

Reason #10: They are biased

PED expects *every* kid to take these tests, even medically fragile, severely disabled, and those who speak little or no English. Even with the accommodations in place, these students have a very difficult time learning and performing against these strict guidelines and standards.

These students are perhaps the most damaged by this system, which many have claimed is a civil rights issue, since it may violate Federal protections. All students need and deserve an open and supportive learning environment, but special-needs students need it even more. The testing culture hurts kids.

Reason #11: They create a toxic environment

Schools are community centers, where lots of people come together to reach goals and support each other. The testing culture has created an environment that is ultra-competitive, fearful, and where trust is being quickly whittled away.

It has turned teachers against parents, parents against kids, kids against teachers, and administrators against teachers. Kids deserve better. Teachers deserve better.

Join the fight to save our kids and their schools!

NM Refuse the Tests
<http://nmrefuse.weebly.com>

11

Important Reasons to Refuse the Tests in New Mexico



Find us on Facebook:
NM Refuse the Tests

NM PED is harming our kids. Here are 11 reasons we need to boycott their tests.

Reason #1: They don't help our kids

Someday, we may decide to stop grouping children together according to their "date of manufacture," but until then, teachers are trained and try very hard to take into account cognitive and personal differences among their students.

Standardized tests don't lead to better learning; they only lead to better test-taking. Students do not advance skills or learn how to understand by taking tests.

Standardized tests in New Mexico are designed for one purpose: to evaluate teachers and schools, not our kids.

Reason #2: They are poor measures of teacher and school effectiveness

There are simply too many other factors that contribute to student scores (socioeconomic status, parent involvement, child's developmental readiness, home language, and students' special needs).

Even with the value-added model, which claims to control for these factors, the tests are based on bad science and an unrealistic view of the realities of education.

In other words, the "scientific method" of measuring teachers and schools has been shown over and over to be "junk science."

Reason #3: They make school boring

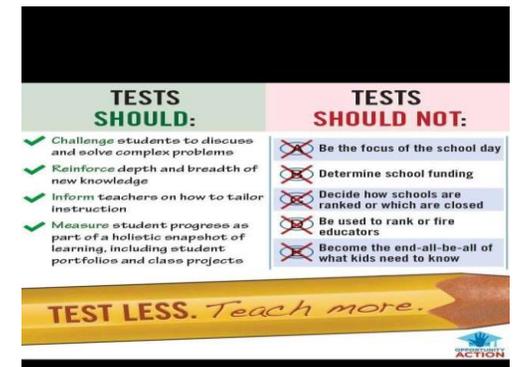
Regardless of how we think of school in "our day," this new information age requires a different way of teaching and learning. Standardized tests do not measure the skills that our kids will need in the future. There is no room for testing and test prep in an age where kids should be learning how to find and use information and technology. In an era of learning that should be exciting and child-led, testing takes us back to the "factory model" of producing skilled workers, rather than educated citizens.

Reason #4: They aren't preparing kids for life in the modern world

Standardized testing minimizes the ability of teachers to lead their students through development of real 21st century skills—creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and innovation, among others. Although we are told that the Common Core and the tests help with these, they do nothing but stifle those skills. We need our kids to develop their natural tendencies toward learning and exploring, not to be led through poorly developed curricula.

Reason #5: They are poor indicators of student success

Standardized tests cannot measure authentic learning. We should allow teachers to develop assessments that show us what children can actually do, not just what they've memorized.



Reason #6: They are designed to make money for other people

Mass-produced, one-size-fits-all testing is perfect for companies that wish to create student failure and sell the interventions. It sounds like conspiracy theory, but it's already happening in New York and other places. Tests are easily manipulated and the score cutoffs are changed quietly, in order to sell products to those "failing" schools. Some schools are closed because of this, which hurts communities, and they are replaced by privately-run workforce training centers (today's charter schools).

Reason #7: They are a serious waste of money

In a time where teacher salaries are frozen, teachers are laid off, classrooms are starving for resources, and schools can't afford necessary supplies, testing is becoming a bigger part of the budgets. Different studies place the cost of testing anywhere from \$3 billion to \$16 billion. This raises taxes, too.

