

# **NYSRSAS POSITION PAPER ON HIGH-STAKES TESTING IN NEW YORK STATE**

As former school administrators/supervisors and residents of school districts in New York, we, the New York State Retired School Administrators and Supervisors [NYSRSAS], are concerned about the current state of high-stakes testing in our schools.

It is our position that the impact of current testing on children, teachers, administrators and parents has been negative and provides neither a valid nor a reliable picture of student learning. It is troubling to think that the values of a productive, stimulating curriculum could be eclipsed by an intensely score-oriented educational atmosphere that threatens to undermine the wholesome joys of learning and teaching in our schools.

Recognizing the costs of testing in both taxpayer dollars and time lost for instruction, we recommend:

- A moratorium on existing state-mandated tests and a thoughtful review of the current structure of high-stakes testing in New York
- An organized phase-in of state-mandated tests over the next three years
- Elimination of time limits on mandated state tests for grades 3-8 and substitution of suggested time frames to give students reasonable opportunities to complete tests and demonstrate the full range of their understanding
- Flexibility in the administration of mandated tests for special populations including students with disabilities and English language learners
- Involvement of highly regarded educators and content specialists in the development of all state tests
- Alignment of state tests with curriculum implementation and teacher preparation to optimize learning and student achievement. Mandated testing focused on Common Core Curriculum standards should be supported by a comprehensive roll out of the promised learning modules.
- Analysis of test results should be used to inform instruction, and not for purposes of “accountability”

We support a testing program that makes sense, supports our students’ emotional and academic growth and the acquisition of the skills necessary for success in school and in the workplace.