

Consensus Questions

State- or Federally-Mandated Testing

1. For what purposes should the State of Indiana require testing of children in the public schools? Which aims should be considered appropriate and which (if any) inappropriate?
 - a. To determine the individual child's progress
 - b. To compare the child's scores to scores of peers
 - c. To adjust and improve instruction
 - d. To evaluate teachers
 - e. To evaluate schools
 - f. Other (Explain.)

2. Who should be responsible for selecting required tests?
 - a. State Legislators
 - b. Staff at Indiana Department of Education (Superintendent of Public Instruction's office)
 - c. State Board of Education
 - d. Educators employed in public school corporations
 - e. Committees of parents and school board members
 - f. Other (Explain.)

3. How frequently should individual students be required to take such tests (e.g., every year, or at education "set points" such as 3rd grade)? Should random sampling be considered, rather than requiring every student to take the tests?

4. How much time should be subtracted from regular instruction for mandated testing? (This would include preparation, administration, make-ups, etc. For example, if 10% of the school year were approved for testing, that would be 18 days of Indiana's 180-day school year.) To account for the lost instructional time, should adjustments be made to curriculum expectations?

5. What provisions could insure that all children are tested fairly?
 - a. Timing
 - b. Learning styles
 - c. Language of origin
 - d. Special-education designations
 - e. Socio-economic status
 - f. Rural vs. urban issues
 - g. Available technology
 - h. Students' computer skills
 - i. Other? (Explain.)

6. What (if any) role should mandated test results have in evaluating teachers?