

From: Spring Branch Speaks <updates@springbranchspeaks.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2012 10:46 AM
To:
Subject: Call to action - Don't let state tests impact students' GPAs!

Spring Branch Speaks

... to make our voices heard in Austin.

Dear *Spring Branch Speaks* members:

Spring Branch Speaks has learned some concerning details about the End-of-Course exams that will be administered starting this March to Texas high school freshmen and within four years to all Texas high school students. After reading this email, please take a few minutes to let Senator Shapiro and the House Public Education Committee leadership know what you think of this new high school testing program.

Background

Four years ago, House Bill 3 was passed to address the state education accountability system. Even though lawmakers and the media implied that this bill would eliminate an overemphasis on standardized testing, the opposite has occurred.

Below is an outline of the new high school testing requirements, and how they will impact students:

New Testing Requirements	Impact on HS Students
To graduate, students previously took 4 TAKS tests in their junior year, but now must take 12 End-of-Course exams in the four core high school courses in 9 th - 11 th grade.	Starting with this year's ninth graders, students must pass 12 exams to graduate versus 4 under the previous system.
Each End-of-Course test must count 15% toward the course grade, affecting a student's Grade Point Average (GPA) .	Each state-mandated exam they take will affect their course grade and thus their GPA.
A high school student must now pass all 12 End-of-Course exams or have a cumulative passing score.	Previous requirement: a high school student had to pass 11 th grade exams. Now seniors will have had to pass 12 End-of-course exams to graduate.

If the state requires these tests to be included as part of the students' GPA as currently planned, all Texas students will be at a disadvantage when applying to college: they will be compared to students from other states that will not have their

GPA's impacted by a new unproven standardized exam.

Call to Action

On Monday, January 23rd, State Representative Rob Eissler, Chairman of the House Education Committee, will hold a hearing to review implementation of House Bill 3 and **to particularly focus on the 15% GPA impact**. Chairman Eissler tried to have this testing law changed this past legislative session and was overwhelmingly successful in the House of Representatives, but Senator Shapiro (Chairman of the Senate Public Education Committee) refused to let the changes be taken to the Senate floor for a vote. You can find the bill [here](#) and the analysis [here](#).

We encourage you to contact Senator Shapiro and members of the House Public Education Committee (names and emails below), and in your own words:

- **Encourage lawmakers to remove the 15% requirement that will impact GPA's starting this year with Texas high school freshmen and**
- **Voice your concern with how House Bill 3 is being implemented.**

Sen. Florence Shapiro	Florence.Shapiro@senate.state.tx.us	512-463-0108
Rep. Rob Eissler	Rob.Eissler@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0797
Rep. Scott Hochberg	Scott.Hochberg@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0492
Rep. Alma Allen	Alma.Allen@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0744
Rep. Jimmie Don Aycock	Jimmie.Aycock@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0684
Rep. Harold V. Dutton, Jr.	Harold.Dutton@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0510
Rep. Ryan Guillen	Ryan.Guillen@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0416
Rep. Dan Huberty	Dan.Huberty@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0520
Rep. Mark Shelton	Mark.Shelton@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0608
Rep. Todd Smith	Todd.Smith@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0522
Rep. Mark Strama	Mark.Strama@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0821
Rep. Randy Weber	Randy.Weber@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0707

Easily cut and paste: Florence.Shapiro@senate.state.tx.us;
Rob.Eissler@house.state.tx.us; Scott.Hochberg@house.state.tx.us;
Alma.Allen@house.state.tx.us; Jimmie.Aycock@house.state.tx.us;
Harold.Dutton@house.state.tx.us; Ryan.Guillen@house.state.tx.us;
Dan.Huberty@house.state.tx.us; Mark.Shelton@house.state.tx.us;
Todd.Smith@house.state.tx.us; Mark.Strama@house.state.tx.us;
Randy.Weber@house.state.tx.us

Sincerely,

[Spring Branch Speaks](#)

Parent-organized community outreach with SBISD in mind.

Spring Branch ISD educates a diverse community of 32,000 students on 46 campuses, including 57% economically disadvantaged students and 33% limited-English-proficient (ESL) students.

(Forward this email to your family and friends - ask them to join, too:
www.SpringBranchSpeaks.com)



Legislative Committee:

David Davenport	Angela Martinez Gallagher
Pam Goodson	Darci Hubbard
Susan Kellner	Emily Van Buren
Chris Vierra	

