

From: Spring Branch Speaks <updates@springbranchspeaks.com>
Sent: Monday, December 03, 2012 12:50 PM
To:
Subject: Spring Branch Speaks: Testing Concerns - Come Learn the Truths

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Spring Branch Speaks

... to make our voices heard in Austin.

Dear *Spring Branch Speaks* Member:

Recently, the current regime of state mandated standardized testing - STAAR tests - has been in the news as inefficiencies and impacts of this extensive testing system are felt by school systems and students across the state. State standardized testing is expensive - it will cost Texas taxpayers more than a billion dollars over fifteen years - and these dollars are going to a London based for-profit testing company, not to Texas classrooms. Additionally, the current testing scheme places enormous pressure on students and teachers to the detriment of classroom instruction.

Texans Advocating for Meaningful Student Assessment (TAMSA), a group formed by concerned Texas parents including a Memorial High School parent and a former SBISD School Board Trustee, has been meeting with legislators and other interest groups across the state regarding the high-stakes standardized testing regime to recommend:

- Eliminating the inclusion of standardized test scores in grades;
- Reducing the number of state mandated standardized tests given to our students in grades 3 - 12;
- Using nationally recognized nationally normed tests, such as the ACT or SAT, to measure college-readiness; and
- Decreasing the reliance on state standardized tests in our public schools as the sole measure of success.

***Come learn the Truths about state-mandated testing in Texas
TAMSA presents "The Truth about STAAR Testing"
Monday, December 10th
7:00 PM
Board Room at the SBISD Administration Building, 955 Campbell Road.***

Additionally, we encourage you to join TAMSA to help weigh in on the issue of state standardized testing when our lawmakers meet in 2013. TAMSA will follow the state assessment legislation closely, and similar to Spring Branch Speaks, will notify members when their voices can help weigh in on issues up for debate and vote in the legislature. **Simply visit www.tamsatx.org to join, and help spread the word by asking your family, other parents, neighbors, and colleagues to join TAMSA as**

well.

We hope you see you on December 10th!
Sincerely,

Spring Branch Speaks

More information on the STAAR testing can be found on the TAMSA website:
www.tamsatx.org



Spring Branch Speaks

Parent-organized community outreach with SBISD in mind.

Spring Branch ISD educates a diverse community of 34,000 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)

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