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**From:** Spring Branch Speaks <updates@springbranchspeaks.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 27, 2013 11:05 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** SBS Call to Action: Drastically Reduce STAAR tests NOW

## Spring Branch Speaks

### ... to make our voices heard in Austin.

Dear *Spring Branch Speaks* Member:

Yesterday, we were glad to learn that Governor Perry recognizes our current testing system is not working ([click here to read more](#)). Spring Branch Speaks hears that the legislators will be coming out with their final testing bills in the next week or so. **We must now use our collective voice to inform Governor Perry and our education leaders in Texas that we have expectations about the new testing system, and will accept nothing less.**

Our voices will add to the groundswell of people who testified last week before the Senate and House education committees. Children, educators, teachers and parents spoke about how the STAAR and STAAR End-of-course (EOC) exams are changing the Texas public school experience: stories included disgust at the misappropriation of public funds to a for-profit test company and an overreaching test regimen that dictates classroom planning and activities. Almost all testimony clearly supported changing the current system.

#### **We must act now! -- CALL TO ACTION - 4 quick phone calls**

Please call or email the 4 critical legislators below and **share your thoughts about the STAAR testing system, and request that these lawmakers:**

- **Decrease the number of End-of-Course (EOC) exams to no more than 3;**
- **Utilize the SAT & ACT to determine college readiness, since these are the only tests that colleges - including Texas universities - consider in admissions;**
- **Eliminate STAAR EOCs as a requirement for high school graduation;**
- **Change elementary/middle school state testing to grades 3, 5 & 8 only for reading and math; 4 & 7 only for writing; and,**
- **Use nationally recognized tests in lieu of STAAR for grades 3-8, such as Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) or STANFORD or ReadiStep (pre-SAT) or EXPLORE (pre-ACT).**

#### **Call or email:**

1. **Governor Rick Perry:** (512) 463-2000 (no direct email)

2. **Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst:** (512) 463-0001 (no direct email)
3. **Chairman Sen. Dan Patrick:** (512) 463-0107;  
[Dan.Patrick@senate.state.tx.us](mailto:Dan.Patrick@senate.state.tx.us);
4. **Chairman Rep. Don Aycock:** (512) 463-0684;  
[Jimmie.Aycock@house.state.tx.us](mailto:Jimmie.Aycock@house.state.tx.us)

Please use your voice NOW to help fix this broken testing system!

Spring Branch Speaks

P.S. - If you would like to see highlights from last week's testimony, including SBISD representation, please visit the Spring Branch Speaks website. There is a link there to testimony by Dr. Klussmann, students, parents and educators.



**[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.*

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Legislative Committee:

David Davenport	Angela Martinez Gallagher
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Susan Kellner	Karen Peck
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