
From: Spring Branch Speaks <updates@springbranchspeaks.com>
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2012 11:20 AM
To:
Subject: The standardized testing debate heats up! Please weigh in now...

Spring Branch Speaks ... to make our voices heard in Austin.

Dear *Spring Branch Speaks* members:

The debate continues about standardized testing in Texas. Recently, a group out of Austin - calling themselves the "Texas Coalition for a Competitive Workforce" - held a news conference in support of the new STAAR testing system. Their message: they are happy with testing and will oppose any increase in education funding if there are any changes to the current STAAR exams.

These influential Austin voices dismiss the concerns of parents, students, educators, and other professionals from across the state - many of whom testified about concerns with the new STAAR testing system during a recent House Education Committee hearing held on June 19, 2012. Among the many concerns was that the cost of the new STAAR testing system is approaching \$500 million . . . in a time when public education is experiencing deep funding cuts.

TAMSA (Texans Advocating for Meaningful Student Assessment) - a grassroots organization of Texas parents and business owners who support public schools and demand high educational standards - responded by advocating for more meaningful assessments that aid students and districts without wasting valuable instruction time and our significant tax dollars; money that could be used to hire additional teachers and enrich classroom learning. Spring Branch ISD Board of Trustees also recently passed a resolution expressing their concern about the over-emphasis that is occurring with standardized testing in public education
<https://v3.boardbook.org/Public/PublicItemDownload.aspx?ik=32371331>.

Weigh in - Tell your legislators NOW what you think about standardized testing requirements!

As this debate continues, our lawmakers need to hear from you so they can represent YOUR opinions, and not those of a few people in Austin. If you are concerned with the amount of time and money our kids, teachers, and district spends preparing for and administering the STAAR standardized tests, please contact your legislators today.

Sen. Joan Huffman	Joan.Huffman@senate.state.tx.us	512-463-0117
Sen. Dan Patrick	Dan.Patrick@senate.state.tx.us	512-463-0107
Sen. John Whitmire	John.Whitmire@senate.state.tx.us	512-463-0115

Rep. Jim Murphy	Jim.Murphy@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0514
Rep. Dwayne Bohac	Dwayne.Bohac@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0727
Rep. Hubert Vo	Hubert.Vo@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0568
Rep. Jessica Farrar	Jessica.Farrar@house.state.tx.us	512-463-0620

Or use this easy email distribution list: Dwayne.Bohac@house.state.tx.us, Jessica.Farrar@house.state.tx.us, Jim.Murphy@house.state.tx.us, Hubert.Vo@house.state.tx.us, Joan.Huffman@senate.state.tx.us, Dan.Patrick@senate.state.tx.us, John.Whitmire@senate.state.tx.us

For more information about this debate, see the following links:

- <http://www.texastribune.org/texas-education/public-education/in-texas-a-backlash-against-student-testing/>
- <http://www.texastribune.org/texas-education/public-education/texas-workforce-chief-testing-system-badly-broken/>
- http://tamsatx.com/?page_id=166

Thank you for your taking time out of your summer to support your neighborhood schools.

Spring Branch Speaks



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)

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Legislative Committee:

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Pam Goodson	Darci Hubbard
Susan Kellner	Karen Peck
Emily Van Buren	Chris Vierra