

League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania
Education Position – Update Study

2015

Consensus Questions
High-Stakes Testing in Pennsylvania

League Name _____

Date _____

After reviewing and discussing the study materials, please note the consensus of participating members by circling yes or no. Add comments as appropriate.

1. Assessment/Purposes/Types

a. Assessments are useful tools to assist teachers in monitoring student progress.

Yes _____ No _____

Comments:

b. Assessment information provides a basis for teachers to modify instruction

Yes _____ No _____

Comments:

c. Standardized tests are useful for comparing student performance across districts and/or states.

Yes _____ No _____

Comments:

d. School funding should be related to standardized test performance.

Yes _____ No _____

Comments:

e. Assessments should be designed to align with state adopted, academic standards.

Yes _____ No _____

Comments:

f. State-wide assessments in designated subjects should be mandated to measure student growth.

Yes _____ No _____

Comments:

g. Competency or achievement tests like the Keystone Exams should be used as a high school graduation requirement.

Yes _____ No _____

Comments:

h. Mandated, competency tests hold schools responsible for providing students what they need to succeed in the workplace and college.

Yes _____ No _____

Comments:

i. Proficiency in mandated competency testing gives a high school diploma meaning.

Yes _____ No _____

Comments:

2. PA Core Standards and Aligned Assessments.

In looking at the overall impact of high-stakes testing, how would you characterize the following areas:

Negative	a. Student well-being Neutral	Positive
Negative	b. Curricular program Neutral	Positive
Negative	c. District budget Neutral	Positive
Negative	d. Accountability Neutral	Positive
Negative	e. Student Achievement Neutral	Positive
Negative	f. Instructional Time Neutral	Positive

Comments:

3. The Use of Assessment as a Tool to Support Effective Schools and Learning

The following criteria should serve as a basis for holding schools accountable:

Yes	a. Test participation	No
Comments:		
Yes	b. Graduation/Attendance Rates	No
Comments:		
Yes	c. Achievement of all students	No
Comments:		
	Achievement of special populations of students	
Yes	d. those with disabilities	No
Comments:		
Yes	e. English language learners	No
Comments:		
Yes	f. those with an economic disadvantage	No
Comments:		

g. Test score performance of students should be a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of teachers.

Yes		No
Comments:		

h. Test score performance of students should be a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of administrators.

Yes		No
Comments:		

4. Alternatives to High-Stakes Testing and Accountability

a. Student learning should include measures other than standardized tests. Such measurements may include projects, presentations, work products, teacher observation, and class participation.)

Yes No

Comments:

Data from standardized tests required by the State are useful in

b. Holding schools accountable
Yes No

c. Comparing student achievement
Yes No

d. Finding students who need support
Yes No

e. Informing placement decisions
Yes No

f. Allocating state funds
Yes No

g. Evaluating teachers
Yes No

h. Evaluating educational leaders
Yes No

i. Promoting consistent content
in subject areas
Yes No

Comments:

5. Legislation to Reduce Impact of High Stakes Testing

a. Legislation and policy needs to be enacted to reduce areas of potential litigation.

Yes No

Comments:

Assessments should be modified based on

b. needs of students with disabilities
Yes No

c. needs of students who are English language learners
Comments: Yes No

d. overall resources of a district
Comments: Yes No

e. parental rights/discretion
Comments: Yes No

Comments: Yes No

Consequences of mandated, standardized tests should be modified based on

f. individual needs of learners
Yes No

Comments:

Yes
Comments: g. funding No

Yes
Comments: h. parental rights/discretion No

Yes
Comments: i. superintendent's waiver No

Access to individual student records on standardized test data need to be

Yes
Comments: j. Available to students/parents/schools/colleges No

Yes
Comments: k. Available to the employers and the public No