



Aurora Education Association Statement Regarding High Stakes Assessments

The AEA Board believes that assessment is an integral part of adequate and thorough student instruction. The Aurora Education Association recognizes the value of using a variety of assessment measures to support teaching and learning. A quality assessment informs the teacher of the strengths, attempts and next steps for all students. An effective assessment can be evaluated by the teacher, and used to plan for instruction, modifying plans as needed for whole group, small group, and individual instruction. The association promotes the use of valid and reliable, teacher-selected measures that assess critical competencies for identified learning outcomes.

The Association believes the teacher is able to create objective assessments and determine which commercially developmentally appropriate assessments may be employed to ascertain formative, as well as summative data, in order to provide a cumulative record of growth and achievement which is more reliable than a single standardized testing tool.

AEA urges locals across the country, CEA, and NEA, to support teachers who make the professional decision to opt out of administering high stakes assessments.

Adopted by the AEA Board and AR Council, December 16, 2014.

Rationale:

- There is over 100 years of evidence that demonstrates that commercially prepared standardized tests are influenced too much by out-of-school factors to provide important results. The results we receive tell us more about the child's home life and neighborhood than what he or she is capable of as a human being. - *Chris Tienken*, <http://christienken.com/2014/10/31/trick-or-treat-testing-njdoe-style/>
- The majority of the variation in test scores is attributable to factors outside of the teacher's control such as student and family background, poverty, curriculum, and unmeasured influences. – *American Statistical Association*, http://www.amstat.org/policy/pdfs/ASA_VAM_Statement.pdf