

# A RESOLUTION AGAINST THE MISUSE AND OVERUSE OF STANDARDIZED TESTING

## The Problem:

Our children are spending **more and more time in school taking standardized tests**. Test taking has even expanded to our youngest children in kindergarten and pre-kindergarten.

High-stakes standardized testing has **negative effects** for students from all backgrounds, and especially for low-income students, English language learners, children of color, and those with disabilities.

Our school system is spending untold **millions of dollars** – scarce resources – on standardized testing instead of small class sizes and other important improvements our schools desperately need.

More and more, test scores are used to make **high-stakes decisions** about students, teachers and schools, even though research shows that they are inadequate and unreliable measurements for these decisions. In Chicago, test scores are used to make decisions about grade-to-grade promotion, access to selective enrollment schools, teacher evaluation, and school closings.

Because of the time and money spent on testing, our children are **losing out** on important but non-tested areas of education like the arts, physical education and sports, civics and history that motivate students to learn and provide them with a truly world-class education.

## The Solution:

Accountability for student learning is important, but it must be based on reliable and useful information tied to actual student work. Standardized testing and the use of test scores for high-stakes purposes must be scaled back. Parents must be given more information about the number and uses of standardized tests, and their rights to opt their children out of testing.

## Our Resolution:

[Your LSC name] is committed to taking whatever actions are appropriate to our role and authority to inform parents and our school community about concerns raised by high-stakes standardized testing, to encourage the use of multiple forms of assessment in our school including teacher-made classroom based assessments and student portfolios and performances, and to limit the time spent on testing and test preparation and practice, in order to provide more resources and time in our school day for subjects and programs that reflect the broad range of student learning needed to support students and improve schools; and

[Your LSC name] calls on the governor, the state legislature, the Illinois state board of education and the Chicago Public Schools and School Board to reexamine public school accountability systems in this state and district, and to develop a system based on multiple forms of assessment which does not require extensive standardized testing, more accurately reflects the broad range of student learning, and is used to support students and improve schools without unfairly labeling students or schools as failures; and

[Your LSC name] calls on the U.S. Congress and Administration to overhaul the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (currently known as the “No Child Left Behind Act”) to reduce the testing mandates, promote multiple forms of evidence of student learning and school accountability, and not mandate any fixed role for the use of student test scores in evaluating educators.

*For more information please visit [morethanascorchicago.org](http://morethanascorchicago.org)*