

FairTest

National Center for Fair & Open Testing

Eight Steps to Work for Testing Reform

1) Sign yourself and persuade your local school board and community organizations to endorse the National Resolution on High-Stakes Testing. It is on the web at:

<http://timeoutfromtesting.org/nationalresolution/>. Also:

- a) Endorse the Joint Organizational Statement on NCLB.
- b) Use NCLB overhaul recommendations of Forum on Educational Accountability (FEA).
 - See material on both at <http://www.edaccountability.org>.

2) Write letters-to-the-editor and op-ed pieces for your local and regional newspapers.

- See How to Work With Your Local Media, http://www.fairtest.org/get_involved/media.

3) Parents, talk with your children's teachers about testing, share information with them.

- See fact sheets to print and share at <http://www.fairtest.org/fact%20sheets>.

4) Consider opting your child out of the tests. See <http://fairtest.org/get-involved/opting-out>.

5) Parents: Join the NCLB-mandated Parents Advisory Board at your child's school.

- a) Make sure it is an independent voice for parents.
- b) Work to minimize the damage caused by NCLB or state and local tests at the school.

6) Hold a public forum in your community to discuss high-stakes standardized tests, No Child Left Behind (NCLB), state and local testing policy.

- See www.fairtest.org for fact sheets, reports, and other materials on NCLB.

7) Build alliances between your local school/community group and other groups engaged with state and federal test reform. Reach out to teacher unions and other education organizations; parent groups; community, civil rights and faith-based groups; labor unions; civic associations; business groups.

8) Contact your U.S. senators and representatives and your state legislators about changing NCLB and state testing policies.

- a) Send them letters with copies of news clips, resolutions, and/or signed petitions.
- b) Call them with your concerns. Set up small group meetings with them in your district; bring other parents, teachers, and/or local elected officials to the meeting.
- c) Attend their rallies and public events, ask them to roll back testing requirements.
 - To contact your members of Congress, go to <http://www.contactingthecongress.org/>.

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