

FairTest

National Center for Fair & Open Testing

How You Can Work for Testing Reform

- 1. Talk to others about test misuse.** Break the silence by talking with other parents, teachers, neighbors and friends one on one, in small groups, or at house parties. Share the facts about test overuse and misuse.
 - Use the fact sheets at <http://www.fairtest.org/fact%20sheets>.
- 2. Create a network for change.** Build alliances among school and community groups to work for local, state and federal test reform. Reach out to parent associations, civil rights and faith-based leaders, teacher and other labor unions, civic organizations, and business groups.
- 3. Hold a public forum or workshop in your community to discuss high-stakes standardized tests, state and local testing policy.**
 - See FairTest's guide to organizing a community forum, <http://www.fairtest.org/howto-guide-community-forums-testing>.
- 4. Urge your local school board to take a stand on testing.** Have your network press school board members to adopt a resolution calling for a moratorium on high-stakes testing in order to design a better assessment system.
 - See FairTest's "Time for a Real Testing Moratorium" fact sheet, <http://www.fairtest.org/time-real-testing-moratorium>.
- 5. Consider opting your child out of the tests.**
 - See FairTest's "Opting Out" fact sheet, <http://www.fairtest.org/get-involved/opting-out>.
- 6. 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.
- 7. Contact your state and federal representatives about reducing testing.**
 - 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 between your elected officials and local parents, teachers, students and other allies.
 - See <http://www.fairtest.org/what-state-legislators-can-do-advance-assessment-r>.
 - To contact your members of Congress, go to <http://www.contactingthecongress.org>.
- 8. Support alternatives.** When people ask, "What would you do instead of standardized testing?" tell them about successful models like the New York Performance Standards Consortium.
 - See FairTest's fact sheet, "A Better Way to Evaluate Schools," <http://fairtest.org/fact-sheet-better-way-evaluate-schools-pdf>.

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