

Talking Points to Standards Test

1. If you want to know how your child is doing, just ask your child's teacher.
2. Teachers, not tests, are the best source of information for parents on how their children are progressing academically.
3. The Manitoba Teachers' Society believes standards tests do not help students and teachers in the public school system.
4. Teachers have no problem with testing, they do their own testing all the time.
5. Teachers couldn't do our jobs without knowing how each child is progressing.
6. Teachers inform parents of their child's progress through phone calls, notes, memos in student agendas, email contact, regular parent-teacher interviews, student report cards – and often by asking parents to confirm receipt of test results and marks on assignments and projects.
7. Standards testing is a waste of time and resources.
8. Standards tests do not account for various social, biological and economic factors at play in students' lives.
9. The test results aren't timely – often results are available long after the chance to review instruction is over.
10. They don't provide reasons for good or poor performance.
11. Standards tests increase student and teacher stress and lower morale.
12. They can lead to teaching to the test, which narrows the range of curriculum.
13. Large scale standards testing done in the '90s cost Manitoba taxpayers about \$15 million every year – money which could have been better used directly in classroom.
14. Standards testing inevitably leads to ranking of schools.
15. By creating "winners" and "losers" standards tests demoralize students, teachers, parents and communities.
16. Manitoba's students benefit from a system that considers their individual needs and goals – rather than results of standards tests.
17. We need to measure not only how students do, but whether enough resources are going into our public schools.
18. Standards testing isn't about education, it's about politics.
19. Students in the U.S. are the most tested in the world. If testing improved education, the U.S. would have the best system in the world. Canadian students consistently outperform their U.S. counterparts.

20. Canadian students tied for second place in reading in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), right behind students from Finland. Finland does almost no standards testing. Our students also ranked near the top in math and science.

21. Universities do not even look at the marks on these tests.