

TEPSA

Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association

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Testimony “ON” SB1031

Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association
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Senate Education Committee
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The alignment of curriculum, learning, assessment and accountability has been a long-term proposition in Texas. We advocate to:

- Support a powerful curriculum with quality in-depth learning vs crowded and non-critical learning.
 - Trends in International Math and Science Study (TIMSS) – our curriculum is a mile wide but an inch deep.
 - Everything cannot be a priority.
 - Sb1031 would mandate four assessments at 4th grade, where 60% of the curriculum is already totally new learning. Teachers currently find ways to “compact” learning, i.e. interdisciplinary teaching, project-based learning, etc.
- Create a complete, whole system of assessment and accountability for the long-term vs a piecemeal and fractured approach.
 - We support a thorough review and systematic implementation of the assessment and accountability system..
- Stabilize the elementary assessment program for children, teachers, and parents vs mandating massive change that includes 2 introductory tests at 4th grade and a new test at 5th grade. (Why change it now if you’re going to review during the interim?)
 - Moving 5th grade science TAKS to 4th grade could cause problems with staffing, facilities, professional development and organizational structure. Many districts organize grades preK-4 on an elementary campus and grades 5 and 6 on an intermediate campus.
 - Allow sufficient time to realize the return on investment from adding science TAKS at 5th grade. Districts have made significant expenditures and investments in 5th grade science TAKS (facilities, professional development, etc.). SB1031 would require inefficient expenditures of scarce resources to re- do this **again** for 4th grade science and 5th grade social studies.

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Leading with Heart

- Avoid significant costs associated with development and preparation of any new tests at the state, district, campus, classroom and child levels (i.e. money, time and focus for additional test development, **field testing** and re-aligned teaching and learning that result in lost days of instruction).
- Avoid additional stress for students.
 - 2 introductory and 2 regular tests (total of 4) are too much for 9-year old children (4th graders).
 - Scores on the 8th grade social studies TAKS test are greater than or equal to scores on the 8th grade reading, math and science tests. Why add a social studies test at 5th grade? (Attachment)
- Continue good public policy in Texas. Elementary students, teachers, principals and parents have produced results that make Texans proud.

8th Grade TAKS Passing Rates

