

JUST THE FACTS...

- On average, students taking the SAT will score an extra 30 points for every \$10,000 in their parents income
- 80% of African-Americans and 83% of Latinos failed the 10th grade MCAS statewide, compared to 45% of whites
- At 17 hours long, the MCAS is longer than the Massachusetts bar exam
- In West Bend, Wisconsin, 30 business leaders agreed to take a shortened version of the state's proposed graduation exam. They "had so much trouble with it that some wondered whether it truly will measure the quality of future employees", leading one bank executive to say, "I think it's good to challenge students, but not like this."
- States are collectively spending more than \$400 million in 2001 to test students
- 9 of the 10 states with the highest dropout rates used standardized tests in decisions about graduation
- 3,000 kids in New York City were mistakenly sent to summer school by a CTB/McGraw Hill scoring error
- In Michigan, parents have the legal right to opt-out, and in some districts the opt-out rate was as high as 95%, and the Detroit Free Press reported that in 1998, statewide, 22.5% of 11th graders did not take the test
- Kaplan's in-school test prep has risen 5 fold in the last 2 years
- In Texas, 25% of minority high school freshmen are retained, and 98% of those retained drop out before their senior year
- California's Stanford-9 requires children as young as 7 to sit through 10 straight days of multiple choice testing where teachers can get up to a \$25,000 bonus, and top scoring students can earn a \$2,500 college scholarship
- A second grader at Martin Elementary School in South San Francisco got so nervous about taking the Stanford 9 that he threw up on his exam
- Teachers in Palo Alto, CA (one of the highest scoring pay-for-performance programs in the state) shared their bonus checks (calling them "blood money") with poorer schools with the lowest Academic Performance Index
- In Saratoga, CA, parents took 90% of their second-graders out of the school to avoid the spring's state testing
- The "education industry" as termed by Eduventures, an investment banking firm, is estimated to be worth between 630 and 680 billion dollars in the United States
- In January of 1999 Chicago English teacher George N. Schmidt published excerpts of the local CASE standardized tests after they were administered in the education newspaper Substance. A few days later, the Chicago School Reform Board of Trustees suspended Schmidt without pay and sued Schmidt and Substance for \$1.3 million. The school board wrote, "the newspaper and other materials already disseminated must be confiscated, even if it takes the U.S. Marshals going to every Chicago Public School teacher's home."
- Only 17% of Virginia parents believe that the SOL tests are "an accurate measure of my child's achievement" according to a George Mason University poll
- Harcourt Educational Measurement delivered late tests to one school in California by leaving the confidential material on the ground outside a school in the rain
- 98% of schools in Virginia flunked the new SOL state test, Kirk Schroeder, president of state board of education calls their testing program "a national model for excellence in measuring student achievement"
- When Florida fourth graders were asked by their Sunday School teacher if they wanted to pray about something that was scaring them, they joined hands and prayed to pass the FCAT