

I proctored the State test (2 times) at a local charter school and found that the essay test particularly was ridiculous for the grade level that was taking the test. The essay was written by a lady pilot who flew over the Atlantic in 1936. The way it was written was from the 30s ! “The plane was relieved from the sobbing earth” or something like that. Students today would not get the meaning of those kinds of phrases which were replete in that essay. The students were expected to answer questions about that essay. If they actually understood it, it would have been obvious that they were coached about it prior to the test. In addition, I was proctoring a few students who needed special consideration and one girl’s computer didn’t work. She waited 45 minutes (the length given for that particular part of the test) before she could get another one to use. All this is to emphasize that relying on State tests to award funds and vouchers for schools and deem some “failing” is totally wrong. I have sent emails to our representatives suggesting THEY take the test...see how they do on them. I have 2 acquaintances (both college graduates) who told me they were stumped when they looked at the test that was given to our students in Cleveland Heights. EChoice vouchers given to students near schools which are considered “failing” are based on faulty test results and the testing system itself needs to be overhauled. Wealthier districts will always perform better on tests than urban and poorer districts. The legislature should know that by now.

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