



This is what high stakes testing does to a child. Aubrey, my daughter, was hysterical and upset about going to school. Tears streaming from her face, hiccupping sobs, all because of a test. A test for THIRD grade. I had already basically forced her out of bed & convinced her to get dressed after she begged me to not make her go. Her anxiety was so high every little thing resulted a massive outpouring of tears.

My daughter is brilliant, on paper & in person. She is in the gifted program. She is a confident, beautiful, kind soul. These tests mean nothing. They are not necessary. Each child should be measured on his or her individual scale. A standardized score does not define the success of a student, a teacher, a school or a district. There are so many things that define success, and some of those cannot be measured quantitatively.

Reducing testing to federal minimums would allow our teachers to teach, to engage and inspire students instead of just teaching to the test standards. Some children do not test well, my son is one of those students. We need to let the teachers go back to teaching.

Many children in our rural district do not go on to college, they opt for a tech school, immediately enter the workforce after receiving training at a vocational campus or continue in a family business. These students should not be forced to take tests that do not align with their life goals.

The amendments to dramatically reduce testing requirements & leave it up to individual districts is a step in the right direction for the massive reforms our state education system needs.

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