

EMPOWERING FAMILIES



Why are assessments important?

An assessment is a way to collect information about student learning. State tests are one kind of assessment. To help our children think about state tests in a positive way we may need to rethink our adult feelings toward tests and talk to them in a positive and motivating way, so they want to show what they have learned.

State tests are an important opportunity for our children to show what they know and can do.

State tests provide an opportunity for children to demonstrate what they have been learning and practicing in their classrooms.

When we talk with our children about state tests in a positive and motivating way, they can get excited about sharing what they know because they understand that their test results influence their school in important ways

A POSITIVE APPROACH TO TESTING:

Test scores are a good way to gauge progress toward personal dreams for a career or education after high school.

Testing is an opportunity to find out how well our schools are meeting students' academic needs.

Test results highlight gaps in students' learning, so steps can be taken to ensure all students are supported in making meaningful progress.

Results also help state policymakers and local school boards identify schools that need more assistance or additional resources.

Participants in the National Center on Educational Outcomes' (NCEO) Peer Learning Group on Empowering Families to Understand the Role of Assessments in State Systemic Improvement Plans (SSIPs) made important contributions to this series. They provided information about the issues and implications. The PLG members also reviewed drafts of this product. The final document strives to reflect their valuable comments and suggestions

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