

A W, Parent

"In my opinion it is unfair to use our children evaluate schools or teachers. It is unjust and unwise to connect test scores to teacher salaries. Of course good teachers will make sure their kids are performing well on standardized tests. Teachers are forced to use methods that are not optimized for learning but are great for doing well on tests. The kids have to comply and work very hard to be good at the test instead of focusing on learning. The kids are short changed. The test result is meaningless for the individual child. By the time their individual results are published the kids are in the next grade with a new teacher. It would be useful to be able to go back and look at the test again to learn from mistakes and give our children a sense of what they learned and an understanding of what they did well. Instead, there is such an anti-climax after all the work and anxiety that that goes in taking the test. No wonder the kids don't understand why they have to take the test. Even though I don't believe in the test, I have always sent my daughter to participate. In my opinion, staying home is not a good form of protest. Again, it uses our kids to make a point."