

Melinda Massoff, Parent, Byram Hills, Armonk

I object to testing that links teacher evaluations to student performance. Teachers are obviously strongly motivated to abandon their own curricula to "teach to the test." I would be if I were in their position. It's common sense. My children are bright and do well on these tests. What I strongly object to is the amount of classroom time devoted to the preparation for the tests, that could much better be used for learning other, more interesting and relevant material. I moved to a particular school system for the quality of the teaching (and am paying the high taxes required to support this system). I would like to let the teachers teach their curricula.

Further, as a child psychologist in Westchester, I have seen a lot of children who are paralyzed by test anxiety due to these tests. At test time I have entire psychotherapy sessions devoted to helping with their test anxiety even though they are in treatment for other reasons.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.