

Teresa Van Dunk, Teacher

Please start with unlinking so much of a teacher's evaluation score to state testing, this does not make a teacher a better educator, in fact it leads to teaching to the test rather than teaching the student. We no longer have time for author studies, creative writing, and student interest based projects when we need to focus the majority of instruction on narrow skills such as citing information and learning to write a "4" even if it's boring and dry. The educators whose students I see earning "4's" are the ones who practice rote test prep passages, the ones kicking out the talking student who missed breakfast that day so are asking their neighbor for a snack, the ones whose classrooms are so boring that kids celebrate a stomach ache...evaluations need to be done, poor teachers need to be let go, but please let that be a decision for individual districts based on observational rather than singular test data. Thank you.