

## **CAN STANDARDIZED TESTS ADEQUATELY MEASURE A STUDENT'S INTELLIGENCE, ACHIEVEMENT, AND COMPETENCE?**

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How many of us, teachers, really believe that standardized tests can measure a student's intelligence, achievement, and competence? Such belief would defy almost everything we understand about students' growth and responses to educational engagements. While standardized tests are problematic at all ages and levels of schooling, they are especially questionable in elementary grades. In these developing years, children's growth is most uneven, and uncharacteristic. Skills needed for school success are in their most changeable stages and implications of failure in these years can be devastating. It is time for teachers, school administrators and parents to assert that testing in the elementary years must end and testing thereafter must be reduced.