



WHY SCHOLARS SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN STATE TESTS

To protect your school of choice

Federal law requires schools to attain 95 percent participation on the CAASPP tests (the nominal 5 percent grace is reserved for scholars that may be experiencing a personal emergency, for example). This year, for the first time, participation numbers will be built into districts' "academic indicator," and the percentage of non-participation will bring down a school's overall proficiency rate. Lower overall scores are not looked upon highly by authorizing districts for new charters or renewals. This means that lack of participation in testing puts our charter school at risk.

To assess the curriculum and educational program

When Compass scholars are assessed through standardized testing, we attain a valuable way to check the quality of our curriculum offerings(maybe). These test scores are useful because they come from a neutral source and give us data that we can compare to other schools. We are able to evaluate the effectiveness of our education program to see what we are doing well and where we need to consider investing more time and resources.

To provide a benchmark for teachers and parents

These tests help parents and teachers become aware of how a scholar is performing compared to others in his or her age range. Standardized tests make it possible for teacher and/or parents to see where scholars are struggling so other assistance can be provided. It also allows them to see if scholars are performing very well and may need to move ahead of others their age.

To prepare scholars for college-level exams

Prior to and throughout their college careers, scholars will take many tests such as these. While the nature of these tests may change at the university level, the tests prepare scholars for the rigors of college.