



# Position Statement

## High-Stakes Testing



### Statement of the Problem

Missouri NEA recognizes the need for ongoing comprehensive evaluation of student progress. However, high stakes decisions involving tracking, grade promotion, admission to dual-credit courses and graduation based on a single testing event present major educational and motivational challenges. Additionally, tests do not always measure what they purport to measure.

### Position

While Missouri NEA believes that testing is a necessary part of the educational process, we also believe that a single testing event does not provide a multi-faceted picture of the student as a motivated learner and a member of society.

MNEA believes that students should be held accountable for their learning. However, a single test is an extremely limited method of demonstrating student proficiency. MNEA believes that assessment of student learning should include, but not be limited to, achievement tests, portfolios, grades, teacher recommendations, attendance, extra curricular activities, community involvement, 504 plans and IEP goals. Taken together, these means of evaluation student performance and accomplishments create a more complete picture of student achievement as well as a greater level of motivation in students.

MNEA supports high standards, curriculum alignment to those standards, tests which measure what they purport to measure and professional development for teachers to incorporate these academic standards.