



BIPARTISAN SUPPORT TO REDUCE STANDARDIZED TESTS

Three recent polls in Texas demonstrate that there is strong, bipartisan support of reducing the number of mandated standardized tests that a student must take in K-12 public education.

Almost a year after the passage of HB 5, the momentum for test reduction is huge.

Significant Bipartisan Support for Test Reduction - University of Texas /Texas Tribune Poll (May 2013)

In June of 2013 (after the unanimous passage of HB 5 by both houses), Texas voters were asked whether they approved of reductions in testing. As described by the Texas Tribune, "Overall, 60 percent of Texans expressed support, and while we often note the partisan structure underlying most public opinion in Texas, support for test reduction was broad and bipartisan, accounting for 58 percent of Republicans and 64 percent of Democrats, 59 percent of conservatives and 63 percent of liberals."

http://laits.utexas.edu/txp_media/html/poll/features/201306_K-12_test_reduction/slide1.html

University of Texas / Texas Tribune Statewide Survey conducted in February 2014

The University of Texas Austin and Texas Tribune conducted a statewide survey in February 2014 to identify key issues in improving Texas public education. According to this poll, reducing the number of standardized tests students must take was identified as one of most effective changes Texas could make in public education. Sixty-four percent of respondents felt that reducing the number of standardized tests students must take would be effective in improving K-12 public education in Texas. Again, the Tribune noted that "the lack of partisan structure was notable: 61 percent of Republicans and 69 percent of Democrats agreed that cutting tests would help public education in Texas." The Texas Tribune article, *UT/TT Poll: Partisan Harmony, Dissonance on Education*, states, "A majority of voters across the political spectrum favor...cutting the number of standardized tests students are required to take." Complete poll results are accessible at <http://www.texastribune.org/2014/02/25/utt-poll-partisan-differences-education-also-some/>

45th PDK/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools conducted in May 2013

This annual survey showed a dramatic shift in public opinion regarding mandated standardized testing. "Results of the poll come in a time of unsettledness in the American education franchise. Recent major reform efforts — No Child Left Behind, Race to the Top, and the Common Core State Standards — face uncertain futures even as the poll lays bare a significant rift between policy makers and ordinary citizens and parents." Specifically, "Americans say they don't believe standardized tests improve education," and "Fewer than 25% of Americans believe increased testing has helped the performance of local public schools." Notably, 77% of the public believes that increased student testing has either hurt or made no difference in the performance of local schools. http://pdkintl.org/noindex/GP2013_PDKGallupPoll-EMB.pdf

TAMSA, representing thousands of parents across Texas, urges state customized standardized testing be no more than what is required under federal law, and that all high stakes for students be removed.