



Summary of 2015 CEA Legislative Proposal to Reduce Testing and Improve Academic Assessment

1. **Eliminate the burdensome SBAC test.** This will recapture substantial classroom instruction time for students. Administration of SBAC up through the end of the 2015-2016 school year will be considered pilot applications of the test.
2. **Create an improved system of school accountability** that is not unduly tied to one arbitrary test score, but to a more robust and accurate system for all schools—especially those in high-poverty areas—that includes assessments for student grade equivalency and academic growth within a school year (SBAC does not measure such growth).
3. **Lessen the pressure to “teach to the test”** by reducing the amount that testing counts toward measuring school quality from 90 percent to 20 percent, and include classroom assessments of essential college- and career-ready skills that testing cannot accurately measure, such as collaboration and communication skills, creativity, critical thinking, self-direction, and social and civic engagement.
4. **Establish a State Mastery Examination Board** comprised of educators and experts, to convene on July 1, 2015. On or before January 1, 2016, the board shall identify the progress monitoring test (PMT) that will take the place of SBAC from among those progress tests already administered in classrooms, and determine how the results from such tests shall be reported. Beginning in the 2016-17 school year, the PMT will be substituted for the SBAC in grades 3-8. The board will annually review the efficacy of the test, and every other year vote whether to retain the test or select a different test.
5. **Select a test that supports classroom instruction.** The examination board shall, in its initial and ongoing decision making process regarding the selection of a test, select a test that: a) assists teachers to the greatest degree in measuring academic growth and mastery of language arts and math; b) is blended with and does not subtract from classroom instruction time; and c) is developmentally and age appropriate for students.
6. **Prohibit statewide, standardized testing** in prekindergarten programs through the second grade.
7. **Establish a commission on student learning and school quality** to identify key measures that indicate how well schools and districts prepare students to meet the objectives in the system of school accountability described above.