

MSBA Legislative Positions on Testing

Supports legislation which provides that it is in the interest of the learning climate within our schools to have state and federal testing periods consolidated down to similar, short periods of time.

Require the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education to score and report test results to students and schools in a timely manner.

Require the MDE to comply with federal NCLB law and release AYP data to local districts by July 1 of each year without changing the current testing schedule.

Support test score growth on the Minnesota education report card as a separate and independent indicator of student achievement and further resolve that the growth scores should not be combined with criterion scores.

Support the following changes to the Minnesota Academic Standards legislation: 1) Clarify that provide adequate revenue to districts for implementation, staff development and ongoing operations of the graduation standards. Any senior high test beyond the basic skills is not high stakes for students; and 2)

Higher Education Concerns

The current structure of higher education for our state's future teachers calls out for greater accountability and alignment with Minnesota Academic Standards and teaching with effective data use. Currently, colleges of education operate autonomously of current requirements for teachers who are in the practice of their profession. Each college of education develops their curriculum based on the desires, skills and research interests of the faculty. While many basic courses are taught regarding pedagogical subjects, there is no formal comprehensive effort to blend the needs of the teaching practice with the education school's faculty strengths and interests. School board members understand that schools of education need to be accountable for producing the teachers they will have to evaluate and develop.