

TESTING PROGRAMS

The Board of Education is committed to providing a quality educational program for Catskill students given resources available. High school achievement in all academic areas is one of our primary goals. The Board believes that standardized testing programs can provide one meaningful source of information about the curriculum and overall student achievement. It also recognizes, however, that standardized testing is only one of several methods of assessing student progress.

The Board, therefore, authorizes a program of testing in grades K-12, to be used in conjunction with other locally developed assessment tools, to help accomplish the following objectives:

1. To evaluate strengths and weaknesses of the current curriculum and methods of instruction;
2. To provide one means to evaluate student growth through individual, inter-district, and intra-district comparison;
3. To provide teachers with diagnostic information which will enable them to better address the instructional needs of their students; and
4. To provide a basis for longitudinal study of student achievement.

Information gained through the use of our standardized testing programs will be used to design educational experiences for students to better meet their individual and collective needs. The Board views this purpose to be a primary function of schools. Therefore, individual permission of parents will not be required for the administration of these standardized tests.

The Board recognizes that standardized tests provide only a limited source of information, and will therefore be used only in conjunction with all other student information which is gathered through portfolios, anecdotal records, criterion-referenced tests, and other formal and informal assessment tools, including teacher observation.

Records of the results of standardized tests shall be maintained in accordance with the Board's policy on student records.

Ref: 8 NYCRR §§100.3(b)2; 100.4(d)1; 100.5(a)4; 100.5(b)5; 100.5(c)5

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