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8 November 2019

 The future of STAAR in Texas

 As the state of Texas enforced a new testing system in their schools called STAAR, there has been a mass expression of disapproval. The parents especially think that the education in the said is revolving around the scores of standardized testing. This is started a spiral of negative effects on the entire system as well. For one, the state requires has increased the required testing hours to twenty per year. Many schools have benchmark tests of their own, which would certainly increase the burden in both the teacher and the student as STAAR tests are mandatory under the state law whereas these benchmark tests are optional. Another observable problem is that the state controls the entire testing procedure, which is both tiresome as well as expensive. These changes can easily be handled by slightly tweaking the local curriculum. Furthermore, it is not at all logical that a single test could decide the fate of the students against his entire year of study. In case of failure, the student is required to attend a special tutoring class that further adds to the burden of the struggling student. Also, one must note that the consistent lower scores in the test indicate that school learning is not in alignment with the test (Susan Szabo). This means that either the school curriculum is not up to the mark or the test is not an accurate depiction of the child's academic capabilities. The scales are mostly tipped against the test mechanism as the complicated guidelines and procedures severely undermine the autonomy of the school districts as a whole. In the end the one that suffers the most in the whole process is the child, as the gaps in the system makes it difficult for the child to succeed and in the end, we end up blaming either the child, his parents or his teachers for the failures of the education system (William L. Johnson).

# Works Cited

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