Why We Test

- **Tests are a regular part of life**, because in the real world, people must pass tests to drive a car, get into college, go into the military, or get a job.”

- High stakes” tests are worrisome, but **more concerning is whether or not our students are gaining the knowledge & skills they need to successfully compete for good jobs.**

- **We measure because we care about student learning, and what gets measured gets done.**
  - Tests need to serve a purpose and not simply take up valuable classroom time.
  - We are **not in favor of testing for the sake of testing**, but asking students to show what they know is important to ensure they are meeting education standards that prepare them for success in life.

- **We test students to:**
  - Provide parents with honest, objective information on how their child is doing.
  - Identify struggling students and schools to make sure they receive the help and resources they need to be successful.
  - Keep the promise of equity, ensuring that all children get a high-quality education.
  - Know if state policies and interventions are working.
  - Be accountable to taxpayers whose funds pay for education.

- **Testing gives teachers and schools vital information on what is working and what needs improvement.**
  - Information from tests equips school leaders, teachers and students to receive the services and support needed to be successful and ensures students are not left behind or shuffled along without the tools for success.
  - Leaders should review the quality of tests, the frequency of the tests, and whether results are being given back to teachers in a useful, timely manner.
  - It is important to ask locally what tests are being used for and how they are informing teaching.