Abstract

School districts all over the country are dealing with high stakes proficiency testing. These tests that control the outcomes of many students' lives have been part of a heated discussion in the education realms. The major concern of this discussion is do the positives such as equality of schools and specific outcomes, weigh out the negatives such as student failure and the disconnection of school and community. We have seen proficiency testing continue to play a greater role in American (U.S.) education and if we decide that the positives do out weigh the negatives, then we must continue to improve the tests to reduce the negatives that concern many educators.