

Resolution on High Stakes Tests

Proposed by: Professional Staff Congress

Whereas there is growing national concern that standardized tests are being overused and misused by college admission's offices; and

Whereas Fairtest and women's and civil rights' organizations have stated that standardized tests, particularly the SAT, are poor predictors of college success for women and students of color; and

Whereas institutions of higher education such as the California State University have proposed that the SAT no longer be used for purposes of admission; and

Whereas there is evidence that the ACT is being misused as a placement and exit instrument at the City University of New York; and

Whereas the focus on standardized tests for assessment, as opposed to teacher judgment, has fueled the "standards" movement; and

Whereas the use and misuse of such instruments prevent the admission of students who otherwise qualify; therefore be it

Resolved, that NYSUT establish a policy committee to review the content and use of standardized tests for admission and placement purposes at the public colleges and universities in New York State. In particular, the committee is to monitor and report the misuse of standardized, high-stakes assessments and to inform the public when tests are misused for purposes other than for which they are developed and designed; and be it further

Resolved, that NYSUT work to ensure that standardized tests are developed and used in a manner consistent with the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing* (APA Guidelines) published jointly by the American Educational Research Association, the American Psychological Association, and the National Council on Measurement in Education.

Passed at the December 19, 2002 Delegate Assembly