

NYS PTA Summary of Responses to Questions on 2015 NYS Testing Program

At the conclusion of the April 2015 NYS Testing Program, NYS PTA distributed a brief survey to approximately 27,000 members. The survey was not a scientific sampling of membership but was intended as informal background to assist us in preparing comments offered to NYS Board of Regents members at a Learning Summit held on May 7, 2015. As of May 13, 2015, 3051 responses had been received. The results are presented as an attachment in three ways:

1. Overall results
2. A cross tabulation that compares demographic information in question #1 with responses to other questions.
3. A cross tabulation that compares test participation reported in question #3 with opinions on the NYS testing program reported in question #4.

Summary and Conclusions

While we invite readers draw their own conclusions from the attached charts, an initial analysis suggests the following.

1. Of those who responded, 90% were NYS PTA members with 70% reported that they had a child enrolled in grades 3-8. Parents who were not school employees represented 80% of those with children enrolled in grades 3-8. Parents who were also teachers represented 13% of those with children in grades 3-8 and 6.5% of those with children in grades 3-8 were school employees but not teachers.
2. Overall, 40% reported that their child participated in both Math and ELA assessments. 60% declined to participate in one or both assessments.
3. Parents who are teachers reported non participation with greater frequency that parents who were not school employees with 66% declining to participate in one or both tests as compared with parents who were not school employees, 43%.
4. Respondents were permitted to select more than one reason for supporting or objecting to NYS's testing program. Overall, 51% reported that they objected to the current program due to problems with the test while 60% objected to the use of student test results to rate teachers and principals. A smaller number supported the testing program, 14% because they believed standardized tests are necessary to measure child progress and 10% supporting the use of student test results as an important measure of student and teacher performance.
5. A cross tabulations of test related opinions among parents whose students participated in both tests indicated objections to the testing program outweighs support. Of the full participation group, 34% object to the NYS testing program due to problems with the tests with 43% objecting to the program because they object to the use of student test results to rate teachers and principals. Of this same group support 29% express support for tests as necessary to assess child progress and 19% supporting standardized tests as an important measure of student and teacher performance.

Opinion on NYS Testing Program

Q1 Please tell us a little about yourself

Answered: 3,041 Skipped: 10

Answer Choices	Responses	
I am a parent/ guardian of a child in grades 3 through 8 but not a teacher or school employee	56.26%	1,711
I am a parent/ guardian of a child in grades 3 through 8 and also a teacher	9.37%	285
I am a parent/ guardian of a child in grades 3 through 8 and also a school employee but not a teacher	4.57%	139
I do not presently have a child in grades 3 through 8	29.79%	906
Total		3,041

Q2 Are you a current NYS PTA member?

Answered: 3,039 Skipped: 12

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	89.54%	2,721
No	10.46%	318
Total		3,039

Q3 Did your child participate in either or both of the State ELA or Math assessments administered in April 2015?

Answered: 2,850 Skipped: 201

Answer Choices	Responses	
My child participated in one but not both assessments	4.32%	123
My child participated in both assessments	40.18%	1,145
My child participated in neither assessment	55.51%	1,582
Total		2,850

Q4 Which of the following statements describes your view about New York State's current standardized testing program? (you may select more than one statement) ing program?

Answered: 3,044 Skipped: 7

Answer Choices	Responses
a. I object to the current program because there are problems with the test	50.72% 1,544
b. I support the program because I view standardized testing as necessary to assess my child's progress and needs	14.13% 430
c. I object to the current program because I object to the use of student test results to rate teachers and principals	60.41% 1,839
d. I support the current program because I view standardized student test results as an important measure of student and teacher performance	9.53% 290
e. I object to the current program for reasons unrelated to a or c above	23.39% 712
f. I support the current program for reasons not related to b or d above	3.32% 101
g. I believe it is appropriate to use standardized tests to assess school curriculum implementation and effectiveness	28.12% 856
h. I am undecided about whether I support or oppose the State's current program of standardized testing	8.21% 250
Total Respondents: 3,044	

Opinion on NYS Testing Program

	My child participated in one but not both assessments	My child participated in both assessments	My child participated in neither assessment	Total
Q1: I am a parent/ guardian of a child in grades 3 through 8 but not a teacher or school employee	5.32% 91	56.73% 970	37.95% 649	60.11% 1,710
Q1: I am a parent/ guardian of a child in grades 3 through 8 and also a teacher	5.67% 16	34.40% 97	59.93% 169	9.91% 282
Q1: I am a parent/ guardian of a child in grades 3 through 8 and also a school employee but not a teacher	4.38% 6	42.34% 58	53.28% 73	4.82% 137
Q1: I do not presently have a child in grades 3 through 8	1.40% 10	2.51% 18	96.09% 688	25.17% 716
Total Respondents	123	1143	1579	2845

- a. I object to the current program because there are problems with the test
- b. I support the program because I view standardized testing as necessary to assess my ch...
- c. I object to the current program because I object to the use of student test results to...
- d. I support the current program because I view standardized student test results as an i...
- e. I object to the current program for reasons unrelated to a or c above
- f. I support the current program for reasons not related to b or d above
- g. I believe it is appropriate to use standardized tests to assess school curriculum imp...
- h. I am undecided about whether I support or oppose the State's current program of s...

	a. I object to the current program because there are problems with the test	b. I support the program because I view standardized testing as necessary to assess my child's progress and needs	c. I object to the current program because I object to the use of student test results to rate teachers and principals	d. I support the current program because I view standardized student test results as an important measure of student and teacher performance	e. I object to the current program for reasons unrelated to a or c above	f. I support the current program for reasons not related to b or d above	g. I believe it is appropriate to use standardized tests to assess school curriculum implementation and effectiveness	h. I am undecided about whether I support or oppose the State's current program of standardized testing	Total
Q3: My child participated in one but not both assessments	54.47% 67	10.57% 13	55.28% 68	6.50% 8	33.33% 41	2.44% 3	26.83% 33	10.57% 13	8.64% 246
Q3: My child participated in both assessments	33.51% 383	28.70% 328	42.96% 491	19.42% 222	15.40% 176	6.47% 74	39.55% 452	10.85% 124	79.06% 2,250
Q3: My child participated in neither assessment	61.39% 970	4.62% 73	71.71% 1,133	3.23% 51	28.86% 456	1.39% 22	20.38% 322	6.77% 107	110.12% 3,134
Total Respondents	1420	414	1692	281	673	99	807	244	2846

Opinion on NYS Testing Program

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Q1: I am a parent/ guardian of a child in grades 3 through 8 but not a teacher or school employee	45.76% 782	18.96% 324	53.31% 911	12.70% 217	23.99% 410	4.27% 73	31.95% 546	8.54% 146	112.29% 3,409
Q1: I am a parent/ guardian of a child in grades 3 through 8 and also a teacher	79.30% 226	3.16% 9	87.37% 249	1.05% 3	26.32% 75	1.40% 4	15.44% 44	2.81% 8	20.36% 618
Q1: I am a parent/ guardian of a child in grades 3 through 8 and also a school employee but not a teacher	60.14% 83	10.87% 15	71.74% 99	5.80% 8	27.54% 38	2.90% 4	29.71% 41	4.35% 6	9.68% 294
Q1: I do not presently have a child in grades 3 through 8	49.89% 451	8.74% 79	63.61% 575	6.64% 60	20.80% 188	2.10% 19	24.67% 223	9.96% 90	55.50% 1,685
Total Respondents	1542	427	1834	288	711	100	854	250	3036