



Big Sky Debate

Resolved: Public high school students in the United States ought not be required to pass standardized exit exams to graduate.



Table of Contents

METADEBATE 3

- EXIT EXAMS ARE INCREASING 3
- EXAM EXAMS ARE STALLING AT THE STATE LEVEL 4
- EXIT EXAMS ARE DISTINCT FROM NCLB 5
- EXIT EXAM DATA IS LACKING/INCONCLUSIVE 6

AFFIRMATIVE..... 7

- EXIT EXAMS HURT LOW-INCOME AND MINORITY STUDENTS 7
- EXIT EXAMS HAVE DECREASED THE GRADUATE RATE, MOSTLY AMONG MINORITIES 9
- EXIT EXAMS AREN'T A FAIR ASSESSMENT OF SKILLS 11
- EXIT EXAMS DECREASE RIGOR OF SCHOOLS..... 12
- EXIT EXAMS INCREASE THE DROPOUT RATE 15
- EXIT EXAMS LACK FAIRNESS; STUDENTS HAVE ALREADY MET REQUIREMENTS 16
- REPORTED SUCCESS IS FROM LOWERING THE BAR, NOT REFORM..... 17
- SHOULD FOCUS ON REFORMS, NOT EXAMS MEASURING FAILURE..... 18
- BUDGET LIMITATIONS DEMAND ENDING EXIT TESTING..... 20
- EXIT EXAMS HAVE NO POSITIVE IMPACT ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT 22
- EXIT EXAMS HAVE NO IMPACT ON STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS..... 25
- STANFORD STUDY AFF: STANFORD STUDY IS VALID 26

NEGATIVE 27

- PASSAGE RATES ON EXIT EXAMS INCREASING 27
- POOR PERFORMANCE ISN'T A FAILURE OF THE TEST, BUT FAILURE OF THE SCHOOL 28
- ELIMINATING TESTS WILL BE OF NO HELP TO FAILING STUDENTS 30
- EXIT EXAMS INCREASE INCENTIVES TO ACHIEVE FOR STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS 32
- ELIMINATING EXIT EXAMS IS GIVING UP 36
- EXIT EXAMS INCREASE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT 37
- EXIT EXAMS HELP FOCUS SCHOOLS ON STRUGGLING STUDENTS..... 41
- EXIT EXAMS HELP GUARANTEE FUTURE EMPLOYABILITY FOR STUDENTS..... 43
- PUBLIC SUPPORTS EXIT EXAMS..... 44
- COURTS SUPPORT EXIT EXAMS 45
- EXIT EXAMS AREN'T HIGH STAKE..... 46
- EXIT EXAMS DO NOT DRIVE UP THE DROPOUT RATE 47
- SHOULDN'T CREATE ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS/DIFFERENT STANDARDS..... 48
- “STEREOTYPE THREAT” DEMANDS A NEGATIVE BALLOT 51
- STANFORD STUDY NEG: SHOULDN'T CONCLUDE AFF..... 53
- STANFORD STUDY NEG: STANFORD STUDY IS LIMITED..... 54
- EXIT EXAMS CAN BE MADE WORKABLE..... 55
- A/T: EXIT EXAMS DECREASE THE GRADUATION RATE..... 57

Cover Photo: Fdecomite