

Madame Chair + other Members of
the Committee,

My name is Deborah Parrish. I was
a Special Education teacher in the state
of Texas for 32 years, before retiring
last May.

I have several concerns regarding
education in the state of Texas.

① The TAKS test reens over education
system. Teachers teach to the TAKS
test. A school's ranking is based on
the TAKS test. In some cases the only
way a teacher can get out of tutoring
for TAKS after school is to flat
refuse, & I doubt they get a positive
evaluation as a result. If I had any
question about this being so, that
question was gone when I learned that
at least one school in the state has a
day when their TAKS-passing students
are told to stay home so that the non-
passers are tutored during that official
school day.

If ~~the~~ Texas wants to compete with
other states academically, let's give that
day for students to receive Gifted &
Talented training.

I know of a district where principals
wanted to take 3rd graders who passed
~~reading~~ the reading TAKS the first &/or

second time ~~to~~ on special field trips as a reward. So many parents called the superintendent to yell "Prejudice" that the field trips were canceled. Again, TAKS runs Texas education.

Since this is blatantly so, I would like to recommend the following:

- 2 weeks after school starts in August or September, give the 3rd graders a TAKS ^{1st} test. Any student who passes it with 90% or above, takes the 4th grade reading, writing and math tests during the ~~next~~ following 3 weeks. If they make 90% or above on all 3, they are placed, at that time, in 4th grade.

- if they make 50% or below, they go back to 2nd, ... unless they can immediately be put in a special Education - type of program which does not require 30 sheets of paper or more.

- 2 weeks after school starts, all grades from 4th grade through the TAKS exit test would take their ~~test~~ grade level TAKS. any student who can make 90% or ~~higher~~ above ~~at that time~~ goes to at that time automatically is placed in the next grade up,

- students who make 50% or lower, go back to the previous grade, or get

the Special Education help.

Anyone who passes the high school exit test at that time would be immediately placed in AP classes or in a career program.

I believe this process would take the pressure off everyone.

① Pay the teachers who

② The highest-paid teachers on a campus should be those who teach TAKS subjects to be tested.

If an individual does not teach a subject tested on TAKS, he or she should not make more than a teacher who does.

③ Have pep rallies for those students who

③ At school pep rallies, spend as much time cheering for the students who made straight A's on their report card, ~~won in~~ ~~the~~ ~~a~~ ~~and~~ participated in Fine Arts ~~contests~~ activities, and avoid the TAKS as is spent on cheering people who put on helmets and crash into one another like males deer over a female in heat.

(4) ~~Q~~ ~~Have~~ I leave you with a thought:

- if Texas allows its public university coaches to be paid more than any other quote "educator" in the state, what does that tell the teachers who teach reading, math, social studies, science, + language arts in this state?

- ~~Q~~