

TESTING PROGRAMS

Classroom Tests

Tests used in classrooms to evaluate the performance or achievement of students should be teaching devices. Teachers are encouraged to use classroom tests as a means of evaluating the effectiveness of their instruction and to determine the degree to which the educational objectives are achieved.

Individual Identification Tests

Individual identification tests needed or required for the evaluation and/or placement of a student shall be administered only by qualified persons and with the advance written permission of the student's parents.

Standardized and Criterion-Referenced Tests

The Board believes that a program of group testing can provide a meaningful source of information about the adopted curriculum and overall student achievement. The Board, therefore, authorizes a program of group testing as a supplemental means to help accomplish the following objectives:

- A. To evaluate strengths and weaknesses of current curriculum and instruction and to identify areas needing change;
- B. To compare achievement of District students with achievement of students nationally as one means of evaluating student growth;
- C. To provide a degree of diagnostic instructional information to teachers about the group(s) of students with whom they work;
- D. To provide general information about a student's educational progress and probable aptitude for school-related tasks; and
- E. To provide one basis for a longitudinal study of student achievement and proficiency.

Information gained through the use of group tests will be used to design educational opportunities to students to better meet their individual and collective needs. The Board views such information gathering as a primary function of the public schools.

The Board recognizes that all tests provide only a limited source of information about an individual student. Information drawn from group tests will, therefore, be used only in conjunction with all other information available about a student in advising the student or assisting the student in improving his/her work.

Test Results

Records of the results of group tests shall be maintained in accordance with the Board's policy on the administration of student records.