

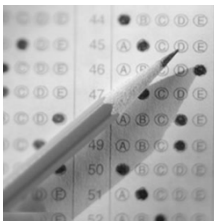
The Failure of Educational Accountability to Work as Intended In the United States

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High-Stakes Testing Accountability

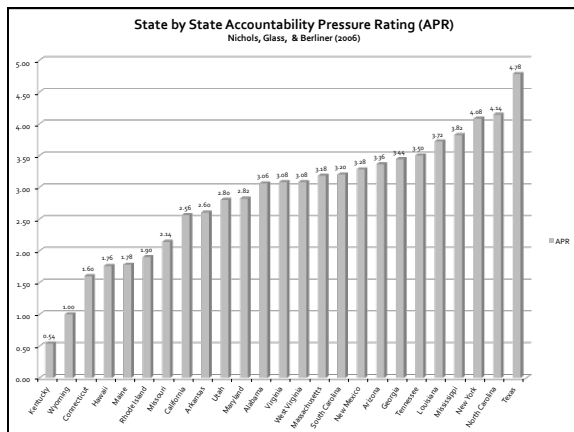
Does it work?





State Portfolios

- Legislative documentation
 - Past and current accountability plans
- State accountability reports
 - Current rewards and sanctions
- Newspaper articles
 - "In addition to their evidentiary role, newspapers reflect societal beliefs, reactions, values, and perspectives of current and historical events and thereby contribute substantially to our shared cultural knowledge of local, national, and international events." (Nichols, Glass, & Berliner, 2006, p. 12).



Does High-Stakes Testing Increase Student Learning ?

- HST pressure is more consistently related to increases in fourth grade math than in eighth grade math;
- HST pressure is not related to fourth or eighth grade reading; sometimes negatively impacts reading;
- HST pressure is negatively associated with student progression through school.

Campbell's Law

- The more any quantitative social indicator is used for social decision-making, the more subject it will be to corruption pressures and the more apt it will be to distort and corrupt the social processes it is intended to monitor.

Campbell, D. T. (1973). Assessing the impact of planned social change. In G. Lyons (Ed.), *Social research and public policies: The Dartmouth/OECD Conference* (Chapter 1, pp. 3-45). Hanover, NH: The Public Affairs Center, Dartmouth College.

Categories of Campbell's Law in Education

- Cheating
- Data manipulation
- Narrowing the curriculum
- Teaching to the test
- Excluding students
- Crisis of compassion
- Excluding ELL, poor, minority students

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"Algebra class will be important to you later in life because there's going to be a test six weeks from now."



High-Stakes Testing

- Pressuring students takes the joy out of learning.
- Pressuring teachers undermines professionalism and autonomy.
- Definitions of proficiency are arbitrary.
