

Should standardized tests be taken?

- ❖ It must be a personal decision
- ❖ They are used for the personal satisfaction of parents as they do not require home-schooled students (unless the private school where they will be readmitted requires it as an admission requirement).
- ❖ To reassure our critics (and ourselves) that children are on par with their traditionally educated peers.
- ❖ They do not replace portfolios or certify degrees.
- ❖ Do we want to teach what the child wants to learn or what we think is important as parents versus what should be known for an exam?

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- ❖ The tests are designed to measure evenly what is taught to a group of students.
 - Are prepared for a given population (socioeconomic characteristics)
 - Have measurement errors (different versions, if the child is not having a good day, conditions of the place where the exam is taken)
 - Focus on memorization and other routine processes
 - Other external factors may cause a student not to "pass" the test, even though he or she is proficient in the material being taught.
- ❖ They do not necessarily demonstrate knowledge but that one can take a test.
 - Provide a distorted view of learning
 - The purpose is to cross students and rank them, not to determine whether they have learned the material taught.
 - They do not measure what students should learn.

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- ❖ Does not necessarily reflect high performance standards or contain questions related to content standards or a curriculum.
- ❖ Many educators question its usefulness (www.fairtest.org)
- ❖ Requiring them from home-schooled children wrongly assumes that they all use the traditional school system.
- ❖ Some providers of these tests: Learn Aid, Careme, Test Innovations.