

Advocates for Public Education Policy opposes SB22-070, K-12 Licensed Personnel Performance Evaluations, because we don't think there should be any mandate for the degree to which standardized tests are used to evaluate educators. We do appreciate the bill's focus on improving the quality standards in evaluations, but we believe that the bill does not go far enough when it only reduces the percentage for the use of test scores to 30%.

Standardized tests were never designed to assess the effectiveness of educators, only to show trends in the degree to which students are learning the material of the content standards. Now that the teacher evaluation system linked to standardized test scores has been in place for over 10 years, the following has been revealed:

- The evaluation system has failed to improve learning outcomes or instruction.
- The evaluation system creates an unhealthy pressure to "teach to the test," which results in a narrowing of the curriculum, as the focus is primarily on Math and Language Arts – especially in elementary schools.
- Using test scores from primarily two subjects, Math and Language Arts, to evaluate teachers who teach other subjects is unfair and inequitable.
- The evaluation system has created a disincentive for teachers to work in schools of high-need students who typically have low test scores, and it has pushed teachers out of the profession.
- The current system has caused collaboration and team-building to be de-valued, except to consider raising the scores of students who are "on the bubble" of proficiency.
- The focus on tests and the threat of punitive sanctions has stifled creativity, demeaned the professionalism of educators, created feelings of disrespect and inadequacy, and negatively impacted school climate.
- The statewide mandate to use the current system undermines local control and decisions of local school boards.

The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), passed in 2015, gave states the power to eliminate using standardized test scores to evaluate teachers. According to the Education Commission and the National Council on School Quality, these states have dropped the use of student growth measures from standardized tests for teacher evaluations: Alaska, Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and the District of Columbia.

We encourage Colorado to embrace the opportunity ESSA has allowed by disconnecting standardized test scores from teacher evaluations. Let's join the other states who have adopted more meaningful and effective ways of measuring teacher effectiveness.

SB22-070: Teacher Evaluations

[Bridges](#)

Madame Chair Zenzinger, Vice Chair Story, and members of the Senate Education committee, thank you for hearing me today. My name is Krista Spurgin and I'm the executive director for Stand for Children Colorado; Stand is a non-profit education advocacy organization focused on ensuring all students receive a high quality, relevant education. To fulfill our mission, we organize parents and community members to speak up and demand excellent schools for their children. We work closely with legislators, like yourselves, to shape education policy and with school districts to implement programming that will benefit every kid.

Part of that mission is delivering results for every child. We believe that Senate bill 070 will deliver results for children, ensuring that the continuation of the professionalization and ongoing professional and pedagogical development. We believed that was the intent of SB191 all those years ago, and it's unfortunate that the bill was never fully implemented or funded; nevertheless, we applaud Senator Bridges for bringing forward this compromise bill. It is a vital compromise for the modification of teacher evaluations, such as allowing for modified rubrics for those that are consistently rated highly effective, thereby reducing the paperwork load for administrators and teachers alike. It also includes resources like free evaluator training for districts and BOCES, and allows them to continue innovation for observations and evaluations.

In closing, we urge each and every one of you to support SB22-070. Good bill, vote yes.