

## Make your Voice Heard? Answer a Survey from CVPE

It's testing season in Houston, a time when day-long exercises in silent bubble-filling determine our children's futures. The stakes are high for teachers and schools as well, with threatened jobs cuts and school closures based primarily on testing outcomes. With the new STAAR test, estimates are that testing and test prep encompass at least 30% of instructional time. We want to see less testing and more teaching. In an effort to strengthen the voices of those most affected by the culture of standardized testing – students, parents and teachers – we invite you to respond to our survey on high-stakes testing and to share them with everyone you know. Be heard!

[http://bit.ly/cvpe-survey\\_students](http://bit.ly/cvpe-survey_students)

[http://bit.ly/cvpe-survey\\_parents](http://bit.ly/cvpe-survey_parents)

[http://bit.ly/cvpe-survey\\_teachers](http://bit.ly/cvpe-survey_teachers)



## CVPE Quick Facts about Educational Reform

1. STAAR will mean that high school students will test 45-60 days out of 180 school days per year.
2. Contrary to the governor's press releases, educational spending was cut an average of \$500/student this year.
3. Pearson Testing will be paid 1/2 billion dollars over the next five years to manage the STAAR tests, money that could be better spent on actual classroom instruction.
4. "Our achievement gap is an opportunity gap. Our education problem is a poverty problem. Test scores don't scream 'bad teaching!' They scream about our nation's systematic neglect of children who live in the wrong zip codes!" (John Kuhn, superintendent of Perrin-Whitt ISD)

## Community Voices for Public Education



Website: [www.houstoncvpe.org](http://www.houstoncvpe.org)

## Community Voices FOR Public Education!

**Community Voices for Public Education (CVPE) is a grassroots group of parents, students, teachers, and community members working to put the public back into Houston public schools.**

To learn more, visit [www.houstoncvpe.org](http://www.houstoncvpe.org).



Website: [www.houstoncvpe.org](http://www.houstoncvpe.org)  
Facebook : Community Voices for Public Education Houston  
E-mail: [houstoncvpe@gmail.com](mailto:houstoncvpe@gmail.com)

## Community Voices for Public Education

### CVPE Mission

*We are parents, students, teachers, and community members who believe in the power and promise of public education.*

*CVPE promotes community-led school reform, in which the voices of students, parents, and teachers are valued.*

### CVPE Goals

- **To reduce high stakes testing and restore real teaching and learning.**
- **To replace top-down, corporate-style school reform (high-stakes testing, denial that poverty and resources matter, and distrust of teachers) with a more democratic and progressive educational reform agenda guided by input from educators, parents and students.**
- **To ensure adequate and equitable funding for schools serving impoverished students, so that these schools can provide a full and rich curriculum as well as vital services. School reform must address the negative consequences of living in poverty that affect 22% of American children today.**
- **To influence educational policy in Houston and beyond through the media, public education, community engagement, advocacy, and the electoral process.**

## CVPE Platform for Spring 2012

We call on the HISD Board of Trustees to

1. **Adopt the resolution concerning high stakes testing** *already passed by almost 40% of school districts in Texas that "an over-reliance on standardized, high stakes testing ... is strangling our public schools and undermining any chance to transform a traditional system of schooling into a broad range of learning experiences that better prepares our students to live successfully and be competitive on a global stage."*
2. **Reduce Benchmarking** *(practice tests for STAAR and TAKS) to no more than 5 hours per subject per semester. Tests are best when written by one's teacher or team.*
3. **Adopt a GPA calculation policy that excludes the STAAR test using the Spring Branch ISD policy as a model.**



4. **Support the Save Texas Schools Platform that the Texas Legislature restore all school funding cuts made by the 2011 Legislature and provide sufficient resources for our growing student population and fix the \$5 billion annual structural deficit to avoid further cuts to education.**

5. **Support a teacher appraisal and evaluation system based on classroom observations with multi-year test scores or other tests counting no more than 20% and delayed until after STAAR is normed.**
6. **Support a 5-10% cut in salaries of HISD employees making over \$120,000/yr before any more school-based positions are cut. Fewer teachers means larger class sizes; this is not good for children.**

## CVPE-Sponsored Events




**April 28 (Sat):** CVPE General Meeting, 3-4:30pm, Bering United Methodist Church (1440 Harold)

**3/21-5/3:** Meet with HISD school board members.

**May 10 (Thur):** Attend the HISD Board Meeting (5pm) and speak to the Board. Sign up by 4:30pm on May 9.

The corporate reform model views students as untapped markets but CVPE views students as **FUTURE LEADERS.**

**Make your choice. Join CVPE.**

	<b>Community Voices for Public Education</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.houstoncvpe.org">www.houstoncvpe.org</a> Facebook : Community Voices for Public Education Houston E-mail: <a href="mailto:houstoncvpe@gmail.com">houstoncvpe@gmail.com</a>	