

NAPLAN makes me cry just talking about it.

I am looking at avenues other than teaching as a direct result of NAPLAN testing and the direction education in Queensland - Australia is heading. I am a competent senior teacher and I have been teaching happily in Queensland high schools for over 25 years.

The amount of money that is being put into this could be better directed.

Schools have always had their own diagnostic testing that gives teachers information about students' strengths and weaknesses. NAPLAN data doesn't provide any better information. I have been to professional development on literacy and numeracy recently and the emphasis is on getting better test results. Getting them to do better in this type of question. I have heard of schools that are dictating that all teachers teach the same lessons in English. My God. What happened to individual creativity. I believe that students results are enhanced when students are engaged in what they are doing and can see the relevance of it. When teachers are passionate. Well I'm sorry I can't get passionate about NAPLAN tests. Learning so we do better in a test in not going to do it. Queensland was held up in the world stage as an innovative education system. Where is the evidence of national testing improving results? It didn't in the American system.

Higher dropout rate.

I'm already seeing evidence of this in my school. If students aren't going to achieve their QCE because they have failed a couple of assignments they might as well leave.

We used to be able to modify the curriculum for students with learning disabilities but now we are told they all have to achieve the same outcomes. So we push them through the same experiences and give them the same tests. Well lack of success reduces self esteem and motivation.

We used to include the affective in our curriculum. Who has time to be interested in that sort of thing?. Mind Matters has been a successful development in education but test results are being emphasised instead of the holistic development of students.

Teacher's mental health is suffering, let alone students. I personally am exhausted at the end of this semester and I have been counting down to the holidays - something I don't normally do. We used to run programs like Aussie Optimism (resiliency) but the whole emphasis on outcomes is putting pressure on the curriculum.

We run a 3 day Help the Peace Program that looks at conflict resolution. Teachers now say they are going to miss out because of too much work. (Notice the word work). Too bad that they would be learning social skills that may improve their life and in some cases keep some of these students alive.

Teachers are under so much pressure some will feel the need to cheat the system. I have seen evidence of a whole class of students who do not have the ability the test results showed. At the professional development I went to the presenter said that principals needed to be having fierce conversations with teachers about their students' results. Well I don't want to have fierce conversations. I am happy to reflect and improve my strategies and pedagogy, but you can have your fierce conversations with some other sucker because that is not why I became a teacher.

Why aren't we looking to places like Finland who have a holistic approach to education? They feed students, they provide the materials they need, they don't have them starting school until they are 7. They have flexibility.

Where did this drive to judge schools on a few test results come from? Well frankly you can shove your NAPLAN tests. I'm looking for a career in a more caring and forward thinking area because the current education system is going backwards with national testing and national curriculum. NAPLAN has not improved the education of students I teach. It has just had people running around spending money and wasting time that could be better spent. And the whole idea of publishing results is antiquated and serves no benefit. If we are going down that road politicians should publish their school results, list their university degrees of lack of them if that is what is important to judge by. Personally that is not how I decide on who I vote for.