

From:
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My concern is for the dollars being spent to outsource tests which are placing a negative affect on school communities which affects student learning. If the dollars could be directed back into schools then more staff can be employed to support struggling learners. The aspect of testing is important and teachers do not have an issue as it gives information and direction. The biggest issue is the complexity of questions that not all students are able to decipher: many could provide answers if tests were age appropriate. Eg. year 3 tests are just not practical questions eg grammar part is far too difficult. Teachers and principals are spending more time 'trying' to talk down the importance of tests as a one small snapshot of how data can support programming. BUT when placed on MY School and used as colour coding comparison and showing that some schools are not performing it becomes detrimental to the idea of education. Education results should be there for the school and not to be analysed by "IT" specialists who get paid a lot of money. Our education system has Annual reports that can be viewed by all our of school results: these can be placed on MY School for general information and school website. For myself I am lost to the madness and political agenda of certain individuals and as a principal I am now spending far too much time (without proper resources) to talk about this issue rather than focussing on "educational leadership" to keep improving. How about if schools are given extra budgets to really keep working at their real job. A big difference to any learning would be to ideally reduce class sizes: not by category groups and disadvantage groups criteria. I can assure you my school has more behaviour problems than any disadvantage school 1,2,3 and I spend more time sorting these out with a part time school counsellor. This sees as leaving work 6pm plus and working in the evening and on weekends to catch up. For myself I can see that I no longer wish to be used by any department and soon will consider my own career choice. Why try and be a leader with all the extra pressure that MY School and NAPLAN is bringing to my staff. Tests are important but are being done for the wrong reason: and personally the school students don't receive too much back. Maybe more stress for staff, parents and students.