Research: What Testing Costs in Time and Money

Testing More, Teaching Less: What America's Obsession with Student Testing Costs in Money and Lost Instructional Time
American Federation of Teachers, 2013

Key Findings

- In heavily tested grades, students spend up to 50 hours per year—two full weeks—taking tests, and up to 110 hours per year—one full month—preparing for tests.
- With less frequent testing, more time and resources could be dedicated to instruction and student supports.
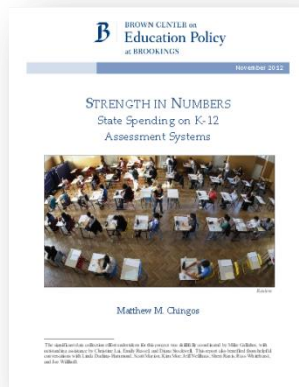
Strength in Numbers: State Spending on K-12 Assessment Systems
Brookings Institution, 2012

Key Findings

- Across 45 states for which data were available, $669 million was spent annually on standardized assessments, with 6 testing vendors accounting for 89 percent of the total.
- Nationwide, states are spending an estimated $1.7 billion per year on assessments.

CWU Teacher Time Study: How Washington Public School Teachers Spend their Work Days
Central Washington University, 2014

- Teachers reported that they spend about 73 percent of their time with students in direct instruction and roughly 15-18 percent of their time preparing students for state tests.
- On average, teachers spend up to 2.4 hours per day on non-instructional activities, including communicating with parents, professional development, and participating in professional learning communities.