

MCFT

Monroe County Federation of Teachers

*Union Place ♦ 30 N. Union Street ♦ Suite 302
Rochester, NY 14607*

WHEREAS, the purpose of education is to educate a populace of critical thinkers who are capable of shaping a just and equitable society in order to lead good and purpose filled lives; and

WHEREAS, the commitment of substantial resources to testing and evaluation diverts those same resources from the educational needs of students; and

WHEREAS, high quality instruction requires adequate resources to provide a rich and varied course of instruction, individual and small group attention, and wrap around services and supports for students; and

WHEREAS, instructional and curricular decisions should be in the hands of classroom professionals who understand the context, interests, and unique needs of students; and

WHEREAS, the education of children should be grounded in developmentally appropriate practice; and

WHEREAS, the New York State assessments are not transparent, in that educators are not free to discuss the tests, parents are not free to view the tests, and school districts do not receive timely or useful diagnostic data from the tests; and

WHEREAS, the assessment practices that accompany Common Core State Standards—including the political manipulation of test scores—are used as justification to label and close schools, fail students, and evaluate educators; and

WHEREAS, parents and guardians have clearly expressed dismay that students are subjected to large amounts of testing, and they continue to express confusion about the rights and obligations of children and families with respect to such testing; and

WHEREAS, parents, students, teachers, and school districts throughout New York State have expressed opposition to the current testing regime, *therefore be it*

RESOLVED that the Monroe County Federation of Teachers opposes standardized high stakes testing currently pushed by New York State because this testing is not being used to further instructional outcomes for children; and be it further

RESOLVED the Monroe County Federation of Teachers advocates for an engaged and socially relevant curriculum that is student-based and supported by research; be it further

RESOLVED the Monroe County Federation of Teachers will lobby the New York State Education Department, and New York State Legislators to eliminate the use of high stakes testing; be it further

RESOLVED the Monroe County Federation of Teachers believes parents and families, including our own, have ultimate responsibility for determining their child's level of participation in high stakes testing; be it further

RESOLVED, the Monroe County Federation of Teachers will organize Members to increase opposition to high stakes testing, and be it finally

RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution will be sent to the New York State Department of Education, the Governor of the State of New York, and Members of the New York State Legislature representing in our region.

MCFT Member Unions:

BOCES 2 TA
BOCES United Professionals
Brighton TA
Brockport TA
Churchville-Chili EA
East Irondequoit TA
East Rochester TA
Fairport EA
Gates Chili TA

Greece TA
Hilton Cent Schools TA
Holley TA
Honeoye Falls-Lima EA
Monroe Community College FA
Penfield EA
Pittsford District TA
Rochester TA
Rochester School for the Deaf United FA

Rush Henrietta EA
Spencerport TA
UUP-SUNY Brockport
Victor TA
Webster TA
West Irondequoit TA
Wheatland-Chili FT