



Dr. William Reichhart, Superintendent

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Dear Parents and the Knox Community,

This week, the Indiana Department of Education will release standardized testing results called ILEARN. ILEARN is a new standards based adaptive test which measures students based upon their ability against state standards. This test is then used to compare our students at Knox Community Schools against other students across Indiana. This results in a letter grade being issued by the state to each of our schools and our school corporation. In addition, based upon student results in Math and Language Arts, it becomes part of a teacher's evaluation which can result in the teacher being given a lower or higher evaluation score.

As your Knox Superintendent, I am totally against this politically motivated and one-type test fits all students. The scores will be shockingly lower than in the past since schools have not had time to teach to the test which has resulted in the Governor and Republican state leaders asking for a one-year pause in the penalties and school letter grades.

The ILEARN test will never do what it is designed to do. Teachers know exactly where their students' abilities are in their classrooms BEFORE taking the ILEARN test. KCSC Teachers and Staff teach students much more than what is measured and scored on a one-time test. You cannot measure by a test our students who study hard, participate in many school activities, become good citizens, and learn job related skills to become successful in life when they graduate. I personally remember being in 8th grade, and after taking the Iowa Basic Skills test, being placed in the lower half of my class. It just happened that my friend in 8th grade also was put in the same class. Four years later, he became the Valedictorian of his senior class and I went on to obtain my Master's Degree and Ph.D. The test failed us just like ISTEP and ILEARN will fail many Indiana students in the past and in the future.

We have to stop this testing madness and make it clear to our political leaders that KCSC students, and other Indiana students across the state, deserve better than to be measured by a one-time assessment. Think of the millions of dollars that have been wasted on testing and what we could have done to improve learning opportunities for our students and raising teacher salaries across the state with the same monies, not to mention all of the instructional time wasted on prepping for the test and administering the test as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William C. Reichhart, Ph.D.'.

William C. Reichhart, Ph.D.
Superintendent