



STANDARDIZED TESTING: PROS AND CONS

**Indiana Pathways to College Network
Access to Success Conference
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DEFINING STANDARDIZED TESTING

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- Achievement Tests
 - NRT
 - ACT, SAT, ITBS
 - CRT
 - ISTEP+, End-of-Course Assessments

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- Affective Tests
 - HSSSE
 - Learn More

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 - High standards for all
 - Business model: from efficiency to accountability (quality control)

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 - Business model: from efficiency to accountability (quality control)
- Generally, standardized tests are used to
 - Diagnose
 - Compare
 - Aid instruction
 - Inform policy making and reforms

STANDARDIZATION ALLOWS FOR:

- Convenient administration to many students
- Exceptional reliability
- Detailed reporting systems
- Comparability
- Streamlining of college preparation
- Management of large amount of applicants



CRITICISMS & DISCUSSION POINTS

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- Test construction
- Test administration & preparation
- Test use and interpretation
 - Disparate impact on subgroups

CONCLUSIONS & IMPLICATIONS

- Problems with standardized testing arise mainly from misuse, especially in high-stakes situations
- Testing policies must be continuously evaluated and monitored
- In many ways, it's the best method we have at this time
- Some alternatives:
 - Performance assessments
 - Sampling (Maryland)
 - Embedded (vs. on-demand)
 - Computerized



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