



Council of the Great City Schools
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Supporting Efforts to Maintain the Integrity of School Testing

WASHINGTON -- The Council of the Great City Schools unequivocally condemns cheating on student tests as the nation's urban public school districts are working hard to implement reforms to improve academic achievement.

It is thus regrettable that a regional newspaper has recently used a flawed and misleading methodology that does not meet acceptable analytic standards in its attempt to demonstrate that cheating is systematic across the nation's school districts. These are serious charges that should be supported by the strongest evidence. That strong evidence has not been provided.

Maintaining the integrity of school testing is the cornerstone of ensuring that our urban school districts are indeed making academic gains. We rely on student testing as a measure for gauging student improvement and identifying needs for intervention. Anyone found cheating should face serious consequences.

The Council of the Great City Schools has the highest regard for the integrity of our urban school administrators, school board members, school principals and teachers who are spearheading reforms. We have encouraged our urban school systems to volunteer for the rigorous National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and to step up to higher academic standards. And we will be working with our member districts to ensure that safeguards are in place to protect our students and maintain public trust in our schools.

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