

Table VII

Effects of Program

The changes reported in state educational policy that resulted from state assessment may be summarized as follows:

1. A move away from testing a sample of students to the testing of all students in grade levels and subjects tested.
2. A trend toward identifying and providing assistance to school systems showing specific educational needs.
3. A move toward mandatory as opposed to optional or voluntary testing.
4. A tendency to expand the areas and grade levels covered by the state assessment tests.
5. The linking of state assessment programs to state school improvement programs.

Examples of changes in local programs and practices revealed that the state assessment program was affecting local curricula by bringing them into line with the objectives of the state assessment tests, by identifying skills needed to teach to state assessment objectives, by causing reexamination of certification requirements for teachers in areas tested, and by bringing increased attention to the teaching of writing.

In general, state education agency personnel interviewed did not appear well informed regarding the effects of state assessment programs on local programs and practices. Pennsylvania's practice of the state education agency surveying and reporting on local uses of state assessment data is a noteworthy effort to enlighten state personnel and others on local uses of test results.

The development of state curricula was attributed to the state assessment program by a number of state personnel. A number of state curriculum guides have been changed to reflect inclusion of skills tested in the state assessment programs.

State Assessment

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State	Change in State Education Policy	Examples of Changes in Local Programs and Practices	Changes in State Required Curriculum
Alabama	Emphasis on needy systems.	Instructional alignment of test drawn into curriculum.	N
Alaska	Reporting of results by district mandatory programs.	Local attempts to align curriculum with test.	N
Arizona	N	Y: in some LEA'S tests lead curriculum.	N
Arkansas	Y: part of current legislation came from test results.	No change of use of results: LEA's using results to analyze curriculum, summer schools (those who need remediation).	N
California	1983-84 mandate upgrading assessments, include more grades and critical thinking.	Writing emphasis.	Model curriculum developed. New graduation requirements.
Colorado - NO state program			
Connecticut	Addition of mastery program--new trend for state.	Continuous program of change based upon results.	N
D.C.	N	N	N
Delaware	N	N	N
Florida			Combined with M.C.--see M.C. cements.
Georgia	added standards for student achievement (note M.C. comments)	N	Y: curriculum guides changed to reflect inclusion of skills tested.
Hawaii	Massive emphasis to change curriculum.	Basic skills emphasis.	Appropriation Increased significantly in last five years.
Idaho	Too soon to tell.	Too soon to tell.	Too soon to tell.
Illinois	Y: school size issue.	Y: writing (analytical scoring scale) .	Y: assessment is driving curriculum.
Indiana	1984 legislation.	N	N
Iowa - No state program			
Kansas	N	N	N

SOURCE: Data Compiled for the Office of Technology Assessment by Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, 1985.

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New Jersey - No state program			
New Mexico	N	Y: No specific details given.	N
New York	N	Teaching of writing now emphasized in schools as a result of test.	N
North Carolina	Y: previously no district comparisons for accountability; test results now routinely go home to parents (now a policy).	Y: test helped to bring a focus on curriculum-awareness level increased; however, no specific program changes.	N
North Dakota - No state program			
Ohio - No state program			
Oklahoma - No state program			
Oregon	Pending: census rather than sample testing.	Emphasis on writing resulting improved writing scores.	Have state curriculum now.
Pennsylvania	Y: refer to Table III.	Y: refer to Table III.	N
Rhode Island	More active interest in promoting basic skills.  Mandated program in 1985.  Every pupil tested across all subjects listed.	N	N
South Carolina	School Improvement Plan added 2.5 Million in 1985.  now mandatory.  Sample now universal	N	N
South Dakota	State test is in its first year. is thus being given to a non-ran	This year it is not mandatory. non-stratified sample of the	1985-86 it will be.) Test 000 eligible pupils.
Tennessee - Not available for Interview			

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State	changes in State Education Policy	Examples of changes in Local Program and Practice	Change in State Required Curriculum
Texas - No state program			
Utah	State and district graduation requirements have been changed.	N	Assessment showed poor math ability. math curricula have been changed.
Vermont - No state program			
Virginia	Big shakeup in 1972. Caused mainly by <i>improper</i> administration of norm-referenced tests.	Minor changes in response to test outcomes.	N
Washington	Established remediation assistance program.	N	Y state guidelines currently being developed.
West Virginia	N	N	N
Wisconsin - Not available for Interview			
Wyoming	Not yet.	Not yet.	Not yet.