

Please Join us in Speaking Out about the KLEIN/BLOOMBERG SPIN on Test Scores and Mayoral Control

Spin: *New York City's state test scores went up because of mayoral control.*

Truth: Test scores went up all across the state. Buffalo and Syracuse, two cities without mayoral control, have had greater increases in test scores than New York City over the past three years.

Spin: *The rise in state test scores is impressive.*

Truth: The rise in state test scores is, quite literally, unbelievable, because the rise is so huge and it has not been replicated on any other test. The latest NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) results for New York City showed that test scores have stagnated for 4th grade reading, 8th grade reading and 8th grade math. The only rise occurred in 4th grade math. Daniel Koretz, a national testing expert, attributes the rise in New York's state test scores to "test score inflation" – an artificial rise in test scores due to excessive test preparation.

Spin: *Rising test scores prove that our children are learning more under mayoral control.*

Truth: Excessive test preparation leads to our children learning less as there is little or no time in the school day for social studies, science, art, music and physical education. Even reading, writing and math suffer because teachers teach to the test questions in those subjects rather than emphasizing deeper thinking skills such as problem-solving and analysis.

Spin: *New York City's achievement gap is diminishing under mayoral control.*

Truth: NYC's appalling achievement gap is **not** closing. The National Center for Educational Statistics analyzed NYC's latest NAEP data and found that there were no statistically significant changes in African American-white or Latino-white gaps between 2003 and 2007.

Sources:

Calacci, Dorothy (November 6, 2008). "Harvard Professor: Testing Doesn't Tell Whole Story," New York Teacher, p. 30.

Jennings, Jennifer & Dorn, Sherman (September 8, 2008). "The Proficiency Trap: New York City's Achievement Gap Revisited," Teachers College Record.

Koretz, Daniel (2008). "Measuring Up: What Educational Testing Really Tells Us." Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Medina, Jennifer (November 16, 2007). "Little Progress for City Schools on National Test," New York Times.

New York State Education Department (May 2009). "Grade 3-8 English Language Arts Results 2009" (Power Point presentation).

Please let us know if we can add your organization!

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