

As a current high school student, standardized tests have largely impacted my entire education experience so far. I remember all the standardized tests I've had to take going back to the first grade. Largely I've remembered them because of how stressful and anxiety producing they have always been. It's disgusting how much time my peers and I have spent preparing and taking these standardized tests, and it's all so unnecessary. These tests have forced my teachers to "teach to a test" and have limited the amount of important and more beneficial information or skills I could've been learning. It's also so inaccurate to think that all students in a grade are somehow all at one level and to expect us all to perform at the same level doesn't take into account that every student learns at a different pace and in a different way, and doesn't take into account that students from lower income homes are less likely to succeed on these tests as well. The ability for teachers to choose what tests to administer, and that kids K-2 wouldn't be tested is so important and why, as a student, I'm in strong support of SB 596.