

4.

In my opinion this would not succeed in bringing about the desired result. This would be very punitive and that would not motivate many of our children to do well. As I was once told never criticize without an alternative suggestion offered.

My suggestion is to require the following if the TAKS test is not passed:

Minimum 80% attendance rate at morning and evening tutorials or lose the ability to partake in the extracurricular activity.

The student would also have to be passing the class that he or she failed the TAKS test in by a minimum grade as well. Perhaps by a B or higher grade.

Example if a student failed the Math portion of the TAKS test they would have to attend tutorials %80 of the time either morning or evening and would also have to be passing their math class by a B or higher score.

To simply state that a student that does not pass the TAKS does not partake in any extracurricular activity would not give the student any hope of being able to play sports or

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Miss Jefferson's 4th Period Government Class

ECA=extra-curricular activities

As students at West Orange-Stark High School we would like to offer our dissenting opinion of the proposal concerning not allowing students who have not passed the TAKS test to participate in extra-curricular activities.

We do realize that this is only a proposal, however, we would like for you and the school board to read our reasons for dissent and consider our proposed suggestions to promote student success on the TAKS test.

Reasons We Believe Students SHOULD be able to participate in extra-curricular activities despite their TAKS scores:

1. ECA encourage students to be more active/do better in school
2. Students strive to pass classes to be eligible in ECA
3. Students have already met UIL requirements to play
4. Some students are poor test takers and TAKS is not a good indication of a student's intelligence
5. Student will experience a great deal of stress and anxiety because they are unable to participate and this may effect their school work
6. Social ridicule of students
7. Some students only come to school to participate in sports and this may lead to them dropping out
8. ECA offer scholarship opportunities for students who would not otherwise be able to go to college (many are first generation college students)
9. Helps students with prospective future careers
10. Serves as a motivating factor for students who are not very academically motivated
11. Many students come to school only to play in sports so the attendance in school would be effected
12. ECA provide students with structure and discipline that they may not otherwise get

13. ECA teaches students responsibility and make them more responsible students
14. Students that play sports are healthier people
15. Making TAKS a requirement is not going to be effective because ECA do not effect students' ability to take test
16. School is more than academics—provides students with other . experiences/educational opportunities that they would otherwise not get
17. Students learn leadership abilities from ECA
18. Students learn the importance of socialization and tolerance to people from other social groups/cultures
19. ECA success has always been a source of pride for WO-S both on campus and in community and this is being compromised
20. High school is the highlight of many students' lives and not being able to participate in ECA will be detrimental

Suggestions for promoting student success on the TAKS test instead of not allowing them to participate in ECA:

1. Teach students how to study (better study techniques)
2. More one on one assistance/hands on activities
3. More motivation for students from faculty and staff---hype the test so that students are more into
4. Better preparation materials
5. Integrate preparation that is more student friendly and more fun for students
6. Institute different teaching methods/styles
7. More dedicated teachers
8. Teachers that are more knowledgeable of the materials and procedures
9. More united teaching styles (teachers that teach the same way)
10. More patience with students
11. More interaction with the community----forums/informationals on TAKS procedures
12. Better division of students in classes (group students based on ability/discipline)

13. Consequences for students that do not participate in TAKS prep activities (students do not take things seriously because they know that there are not consequences for their actions)
14. Differentiated instruction (change up the teaching styles of TAKS prep)
15. Offer incentives for students who pass the test the first time
16. Mandatory TAKS class for all students
17. Mandatory afterschool TAKS class for students that did not pass the test
18. Provide better preparation for test day
19. Mandate TAKS class in place of athletics class or ECA class
20. Break all students into academic teams (this will encourage competition and students do better when they are competing with each other)