

# Amendment 3 Talking Points

This constitutional amendment must be defeated because it treats students like numbers and takes local control away from parents, teachers, and school districts and hands it to Jefferson City politicians. This costly amendment is a one-size-fits-all approach to our children that would force taxpayers to spend money on even more government-mandated standardized tests.

## Takes Away Local Control

- This amendment will take away local control of our schools and hand it to Jefferson City politicians.
- This top-down mandate will shift local control away from parents, teachers, and school districts, while implementing unfunded, statewide standardized tests.
- Principals and Superintendents would lose the ability to evaluate their own staff and would have to make staffing decisions based on standardized test scores.

## One-Size-Fits-All

- This amendment is a one-size-fits-all approach that treats our students like numbers and prevents teachers from treating our students like individuals.
- We need to be sure that our students are good thinkers, not just good test takers.
- This one-size-fits-all approach is wrong.

## Standardized Tests

- Students already take too many standardized tests.
- We need to make sure that our children are learning the material and are good critical thinkers, not just good test takers.
- High stakes testing forces teachers to “teach to the test” rather than focusing on actual instruction and learning.
- Real accountability should come from principals regularly monitoring classrooms, having experienced teachers mentoring others and allowing parents more input in the process.

## Cost

- Funding is already a problem for many of our schools, and implementing more standardized tests will take money out of the classroom.
- This top-down mandate will force local school districts to spend money on even more standardized tests.
- Studies have shown it would cost upwards of \$1 billion to implement. School districts and taxpayers in those communities will be forced to foot the bill.