

Testimony of
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CEA Executive Director
Before the
State Board of Education
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Good morning. Thank you for this opportunity to address you on behalf of CEA's more than 40,000 members across Connecticut.

Teachers are very concerned about the direction and process that appears to be evolving on the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC). I am here today to share some of those concerns and to ask the Board to consider the following before you adopt evaluation guidelines and begin piloting them, which is by statute to happen beginning July 1st.

1. CEA and other groups clearly believe we agreed to and you voted to adopt a framework with 22 ½% dedicated to standardized tests – state tests for those 25% of teachers who work in tested grades or subjects and other standardized tests for the other 75% of teachers.
2. Using simple logic, if we all believed that tests would be included in the other 22 ½% wouldn't we have simply agreed to a higher percentage?
3. The transcript of your meeting in fact reflects this question of the "other" 22 ½%. We believe the other 22 ½% was reserved for other indicators of student academic growth – as per Connecticut's statute.
4. Now, another problem has developed, and this is what weight would more tests within the "other" 22 ½% have? We ask for clear definition and clear limits. Over reliance on testing has been a failure for our students. We ask the Board to not make the same mistake when establishing a fair, reliable and valid teacher evaluation system and state model for the pilots.

I have attached research, examples of other relevant indicators of student work, and a suggested way to clarify this dilemma as we move forward.

Thank you.