## **TESTING**

Testing shall be carried out to provide information on the basic items of (1) learner educational needs, and (2) learner educational achievement.

Testing programs shall be designed as an integral part of the needs assessment and evaluation programs. They shall be developed primarily for furnishing needed information to decision makers, including the School Committee, administrators, teachers, parents, and students. The needs of these various users shall be clearly identified and the testing programs shall be limited to obtaining that information which is needed and useful.

There shall be broad-based involvement in the development of testing programs. In their planning, every effort shall be made to see that testing contributes to the learning process rather than detracts from it. Efforts shall be made to incorporate necessary culture-free or culture-fair tests to assure that measurements are reasonably accurate. Learning goals and objectives shall provide the guidelines for determining tests to be utilized, including questions of where, when, and how to use culture-free/culture-fair tests.

Standardized achievement tests shall be given frequently enough to adequately monitor student progress and to evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum and instruction. Students will be tested in specific academic areas, at the appropriate grade levels, according to the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System established by the Massachusetts Department of Education.

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