



Michigan Council of Teachers of English

Statement on Assessment

WHEREAS: The National Council of Teachers of English stresses the importance of integrating teaching, learning, and evaluation;

WHEREAS: The National Council of Teachers of English further believes in the empowerment of teachers to be confident evaluators and constructive critics of assessment strategies and has worked to develop alternative models of testing and assessment;

WHEREAS: Standardized tests are major barriers to student opportunity, to staff development, and to sound curriculum;

WHEREAS: the State of Michigan has incorporated writing as an integral part of the Michigan Education Assessment Program; and

WHEREAS: The State of Michigan further promotes the CORE curriculum as part of the school improvement regulations (PA 25),

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Michigan Council of Teachers of English affirm that assessment practices and instruments reflect the recent advances in the teaching and learning of English language arts;

THAT the Michigan Council of Teachers of English develop appropriate position statements and publications to provide students, parents, classroom teachers, school administrators, government officials, and the general public with assessment information for all levels of education, K through college;

THAT the Michigan Council of Teachers of English strongly discourage the use of standardized tests as a means of assessing writing; and

THAT the Michigan Council of Teachers of English vigorously recommends alternative forms of assessment, such as the use of portfolio and holistic scoring, to help students and teachers collaboratively improve writing skills based on carefully developed criteria for effective writing.