

Decision Considerations

Article 3

Editors, Education Week on the Web (2005), Tech's Answer to Testing, *2003 Editorial Projects in Education*, Vol. 22, number 35, page 8,10. Available online at <http://counts.edweek.org/sreports/tc03/article.cfm?slug=35exec.h22>

This report examines issues surrounding online testing and paper-pencil modes of assessment. The "No Child Left Behind" Act of 2001 assessment requirements are forcing schools to find more efficient ways to assess academic skills which includes assessments that can provide almost immediate feedback. One issue yet to be resolved for schools is the lack of computers when many states are struggling with budget deficits. However, researchers point out that computerized testing has the potential to be cheaper than the printed assessment. Scoring cost is favorable to the online testing. Test building for the online is comparable to test building for paper-pencil assessment. One issue yet to be fully explored is that of adaptive testing. Proponents argue that it provides more individualized and accurate assessment of student's academic achievement. One of the greatest impacts of online testing is in the area of test preparation courses. Last year, more than 200,000 students in 60 countries signed up for the Princeton Review's online demonstrations of tests such as the SAT and state exit exams. (*Technology Counts 2003* tracks the online test prep trend.) Testing special education students may guide test construction from what educators learn about tailoring assessments to the needs of special education students.