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The Effects of Standardized Testing

Since the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), standardized testing has been in effect as exams administered in a controlled environment, in order to gauge students' academic performance. From then on, there have been multiple amendments made to the ESEA, such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), and the most recent Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Although these amendments have made significant changes to the nation's usage of standardized testing, such as establishing standards, or creating high stakes testing, there are many people displeased with the results produced by standardized testing reflected by the children amongst society. **There is controversy over** the usefulness of standardized testing for gauging the performance and potential of students. **Some argue** that the importance of standardized testing has been overly harmful to our society, due to testing overuse and the impact of opportunity gaps, whereas **others argue** that standardized testing is not only useful for measuring the academic performance of students, but also a useful tool for locating disparities in academic performance between demographic groups.

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