***Task Force on Summative Assessment***

***Middle School Study Group:***

***Identifying Solutions toward Improving the System of Assessments***

*Preliminary Draft Recommendations*

December 9, 2014

* Assessment should inform instruction throughout the year and inform student learning.
* One time end-of-year assessment is not productive.
* Middle school assessments should prepare students for high school.
* Student sampling at grade 6 or grade 7 should be considered a viable option to testing all students in these grades each year. With this plan, all students would be assessed at grade 8.
* Benchmark testing would be coordinated across grade 6, grade 7, and grade 8 with common objectives to yield greater information about student overall performance in middle school.
* Middle school assessment, just as the middle grades concept of team teaching, should be a collective effort, with a cumulative exiting assessment in grade 8, where all teachers are held accountable for student progress. This exiting assessment would be a nationally normed.