

*PAGE legislative priorities guide the advocacy efforts of Georgia's leading educators association. The 2018 priorities were drafted and approved by PAGE membership, comprising more than 93,000 professional educators throughout the state. The following expounds on our 2018 legislative priorities with regard to student assessment and school accountability:*

### Oppose More High-Stakes Testing

PAGE members strongly discourage policymakers from relying heavily on standardized testing to gauge student, educator and school performance. Georgia educators oppose efforts to mandate more high-stakes standardized assessment, particularly with young students.<sup>1</sup>

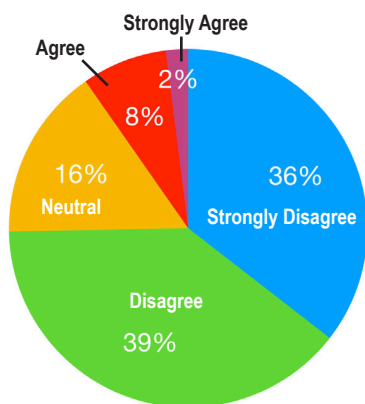
Participants in our 2017 Legislative Survey feel strongly about proposals to implement mandatory summative assessments in grades K-2. Among the more than 3,000 respondents, 46.4% strongly oppose such a policy, and 24.4% percent oppose it. Only 2.6% of responding Georgia educators (representing 73 survey participants) strongly support a mandatory summative assessment of young students.

### Promote Community Accountability

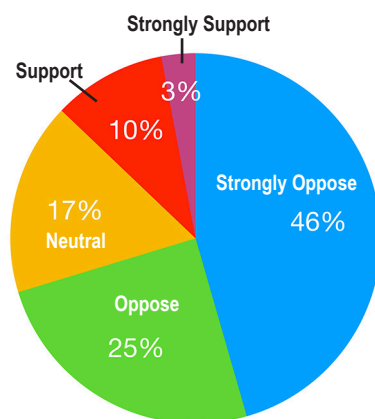
Only a fraction of professional Georgia educators participating in our survey (2%) strongly agree that Georgia's current standardized testing program benefits students. Among respondents, more than 35.6% strongly disagree with the premise that the assessment program benefits students, and 40% percent disagree with the statement.<sup>2</sup>

In large part, educator sentiment regarding the effectiveness of Georgia's assessment program appears to stem from their feeling (67.8% of educators responding) that students are not engaged in class after the administration of standardized assessments,<sup>3</sup> and from disagreement over whether data obtained during test assessment is used to guide instruction.<sup>4</sup>

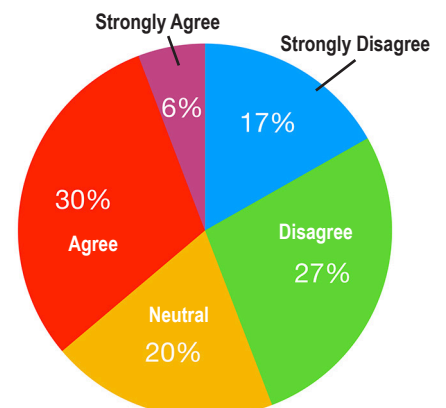
**The Current Standardized Testing Program Benefits Students**



**Rank your support for the creation of high stakes summative assessments for students in grades K-2 in English and mathematics**



**Data gathered from standardized testing is used in the classroom to improve instruction**



1 PAGE 2017 Legislative Survey, p. 23

2 PAGE 2017 Legislative Survey, p. 24

3 PAGE 2017 Legislative Survey, p. 25

4 PAGE 2017 Legislative Survey, p. 23