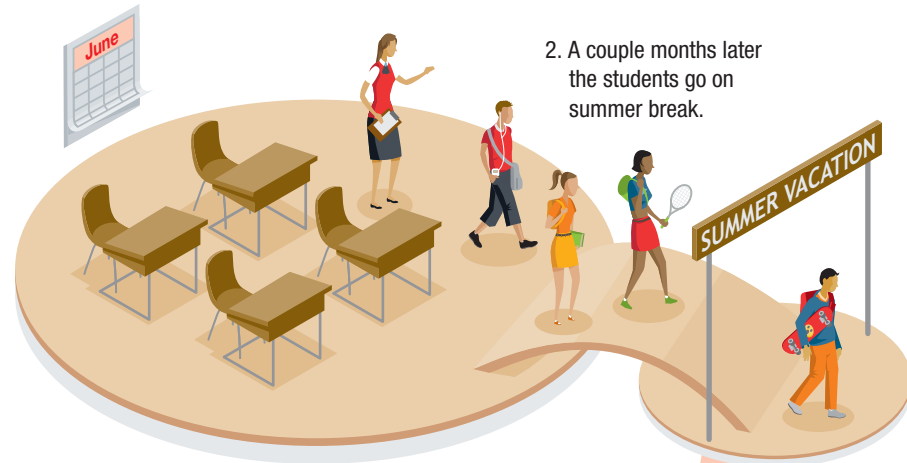# Paper-based testing: Slow, expensive, not useful for instruction

One of the major requirements for NCLB is annual assessment of students in core subjects beginning with reading and math. However, the traditional paper-based approach has several downsides — including untimely feedback which takes 4-6 months to generate results, high costs associated with administrative overhead and use of multiple resources to duplicate, administer, collect, collate, code, score and analyze the data.
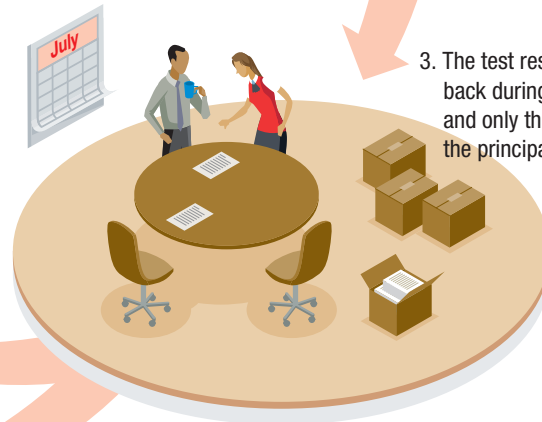

1. Teacher hands out tests and packages them for scoring after completion.

CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR

April

June

2. A couple months later the students go on summer break.

SUMMER VACATION

3. The test results come back during the summer and only the teacher and the principal see them.

July

4a. Parents receive their children's test results from last school year.

NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

Sept.

4b. Teacher files away test results from last year's students.

5. Students have a new teacher and start a fresh curriculum.

Total time to test results:	Informing instruction:	Transport, security, paper costs:
4+ Months	None	Expensive

Bottom Line: Costly