

## NEW JERSEY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



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TO: **Local Association Presidents**  
FROM: **Steve Wollmer, Communications Director**  
RE: **Evaluation and Seniority**

Another week, another set of issues on the table. This week, it's evaluation and seniority on Chris Christie's "to do" list.

The long-anticipated report of the governor's task force on evaluation is expected to be released tomorrow or Friday, so NJEA released a [news story](#) to all media and opinion leaders earlier today to pre-empt that report.

Back on January 19, NJEA and 12 other organizations sponsored a symposium at the Princeton campus of Educational Testing Service, titled: "Standardized Tests and Teacher Accountability: The Research." A distinguished panel of researchers conducted an in-depth discussion of the entire "value-added method" (VAM) of using test scores to evaluate teacher effectiveness. The results of that symposium provide NJEA with a rock-solid research foundation to counter the impending Christie task force report, which will no doubt deliver on Christie's directive that they conclude that "at least 50 percent" of teacher evaluations be based on student test scores.

Please check the link to the [NJEA Review story](#) – a concise analysis of the symposium's key conclusions – and print out these [background points](#) for use by you and your members in understanding why tying test scores to evaluations is questionable policy, at best.

Today, Christie told one of his Town Hall meetings that he wants to end seniority as a basis for layoffs. Here are some [talking points](#) to counter the wisdom of that assertion.

You and your members are encouraged to use materials on both of these issues to write letters to the editor, Facebook messages, Tweets, and blog entries to counter the misperceptions that Christie is trying to peddle.

Thanks for your involvement.