

## **PUBLIC BELIEFS ABOUT ACCOUNTABILITY NOT ALIGNED WITH FEDERAL & LOCAL POLICIES**

Parents appear to have different expectations than lawmakers for what it means to hold schools accountable for student success, according to the Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL). A new brief reports on the results of an ongoing research project McREL conducted to uncover what parents and other community members, particularly those in underrepresented populations, think "education accountability" means -- that is, to whom and for what do they believe educators should be held "accountable."

- Key findings reported in the brief are as follows:
- Respondents generally believed that in addition to schools, parents, community members, and students should also be held accountable for student success
- Respondents accept standardized tests as a means of measuring student progress, but believe that other means should be included.
- Community members in rural areas demonstrated resistance to imposed standards and lack of faith in the quality of statewide assessments.
- Spanish-speaking community members voiced concern that despite the rhetorical focus on ensuring the success of all students, teachers do not consider themselves "equally accountable" for the education of all children.
- Find the whole article at:
- [http://www.mcrel.org/PDF/AssessmentAccountabilityDataUse/4002IR\\_Examining\\_Accountability.pdf](http://www.mcrel.org/PDF/AssessmentAccountabilityDataUse/4002IR_Examining_Accountability.pdf)