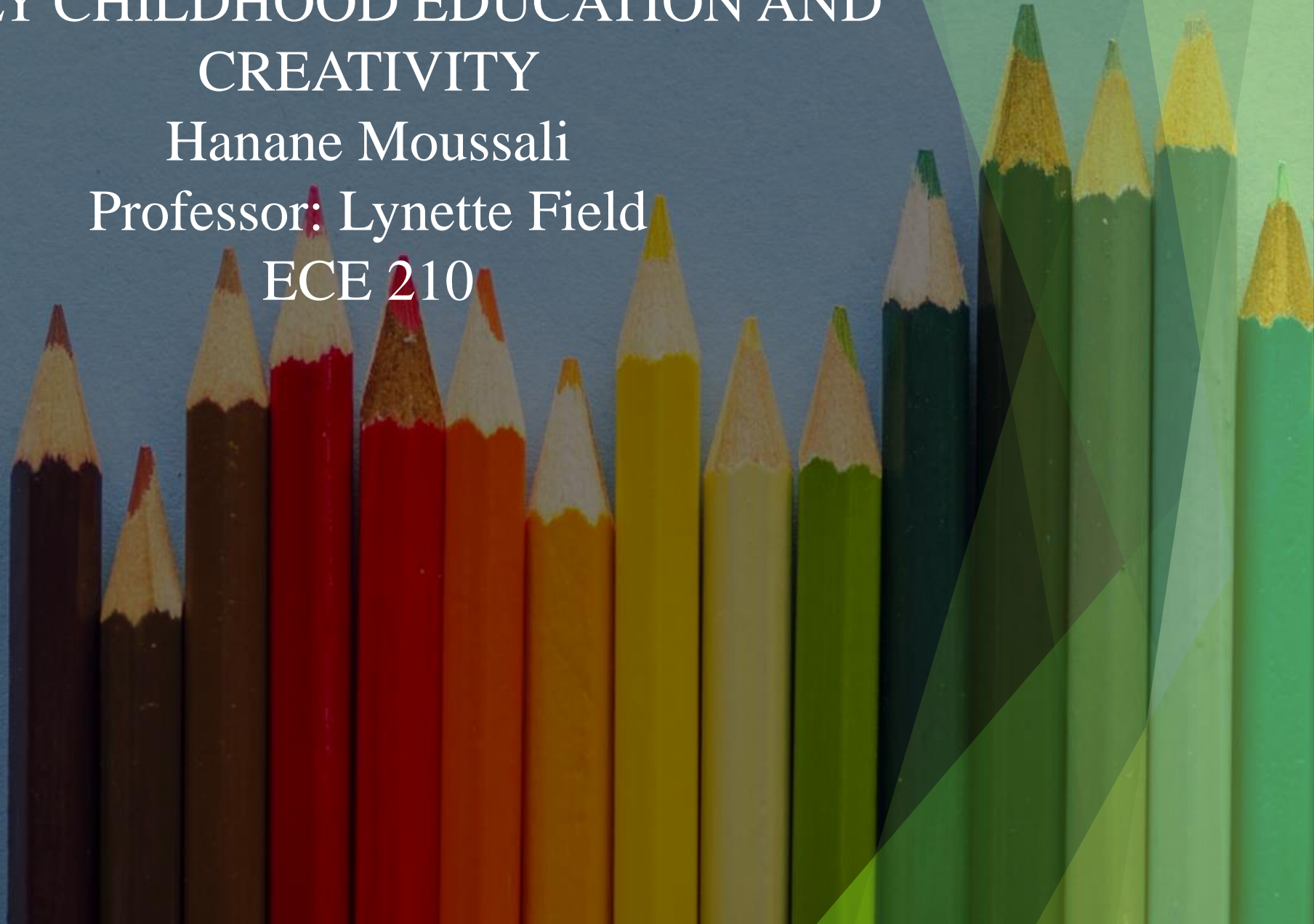


Advocacy project
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND
CREATIVITY

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ECE 210



► The education system is supposed to support children's development and embrace their creativity. But this cannot happen with standards-based education. How can a child be creative? How can we value children's creativity while parents, teachers, school principals, and students are obliged to follow a written document, a detailed description of what students should be informed about and to be able to do starting early education?





- We are all born with immense natural talents, but by the time we have been through education far too many of us have lost touch with them. Many highly talented, brilliant people think they are not because the thing they were good at in school, wasn't valued or was actually stigmatized. The consequences are disastrous for individuals and for the health of our communities. (Robinson, 2015, p. xviii)

The New York City Department of Education website states "Students in elementary grades take various NY State and local tests to support their instruction. To determine eligibility for certain programs, and to provide information on their progress toward mastering grade-level learning standards."

tests students take in grades pre-k to 5th:

- NY State English Language Arts Test.
- NY State Math Test.
- NY State Science Test.
- NY State Alternate Assessment.
- Tests for English Language Learners.
- Gifted and Talented Testing.
- Periodic Assessments.

On the same website, we find the following expression: "Keep in mind that test results are just one measurement of student achievement." therefore more opportunities for those who score high, and more inequality for those who score low. The perfect recipe for brainwash and conformity.



school becomes a test-prep program.

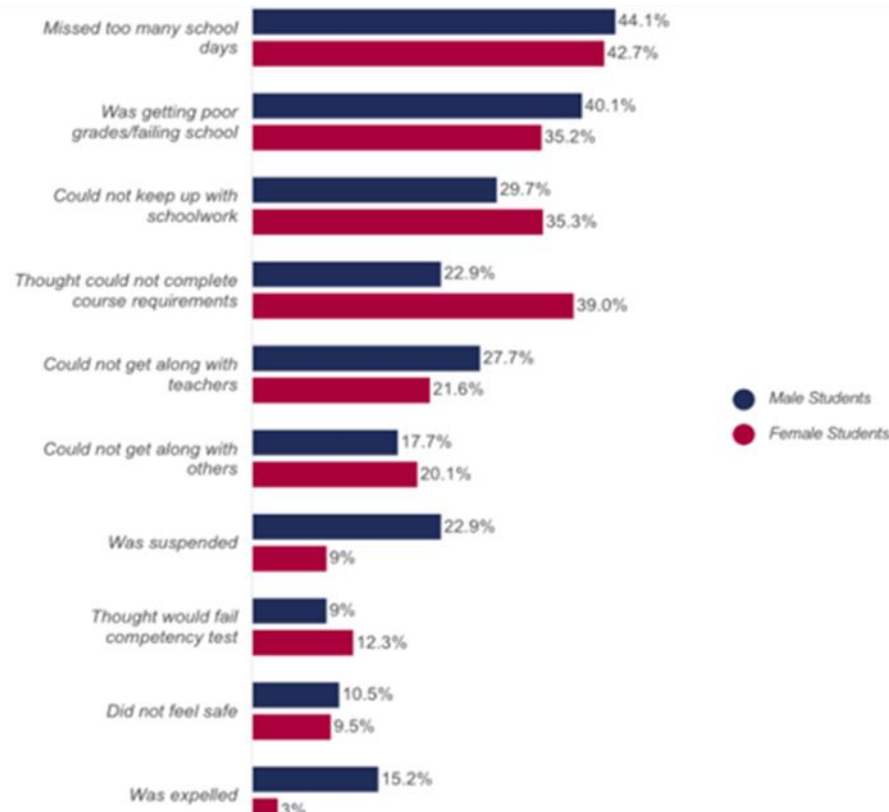


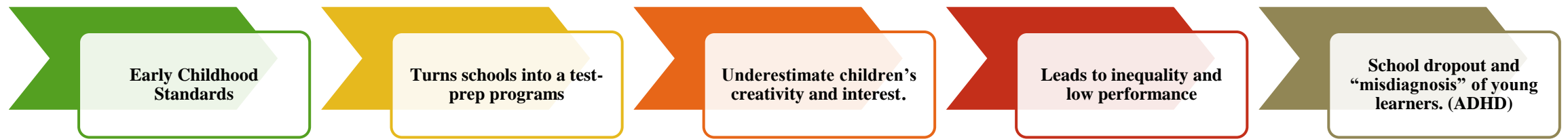
► Monty Neill, executive director of FairTest said, the tests do not measure very much of what's important, and they measure in a very narrow way. The testing requirements and the data derived from that are essentially colonizing the classroom and making it very hard for teachers to spend time on things that are important for students to know or to be able to do or to engage their interest and attention. How the subject is tested becomes a model for how to teach the subject. At the extreme, school becomes a test-prep program.

statistics have shown that one of the causes of school dropout at high school are:

- getting poor grades
- could not keep up with schoolwork
- thought could not complete course requirements,
- thought would fail the competency test

Cause of dropping out of high school by gender school related reason 2017





Standards based Early Education Process.

Educator's Role :

Inside the classroom:

- Implement pedagogies that embrace individuality, supports children's learning style, which many teachers and schools are already very good at.
- Engage families and the community in the learning process and create the bridge between school and home.
- Set up the classroom in a way that stimulates children's imagination and creativity.
- Convince children and families that learning is an art, a skill that can be acquired, and use it as a tool to sharpen their talents and interest rather than an outcome

Outside the classroom:

- teachers should consider joining an advocacy group such as the New York State Association of Early Childhood teachers (NSAECTE), the National Education Association (NEA), or the School Boards Association, participate in webinars and other events, stay informed on federal and state legislation, have conversations with friends and families and share their passion for better education.

Families' role:

- Get involved in public schools.
- Attend school board meetings or serve as a school board member.
- Attend town hall meetings.
- Vote for the Education Council representative is another way families can have their voices heard.
- Attend PTO meetings and other events open to the public

The Government :

- The federal government should not intrude into setting standards.
- school findings must be determined based on the school and the student's financial needs rather than scores.
- Standards must be high-quality standards that go beyond basic skills and bubble sheets.
- Early childhood Standards should consider that human beings are not alike. It must Cover all areas of learning and give children a broader choice, equal opportunities, and fair access to higher education.
- These high-quality standards should be set as encouragement, without rewards or sanctions, not as an end in itself.
- The house of representatives or the senate floor is definitely the wrong place to set these standards. High-Quality standards should be determined by professional educators and inside our public schools.



The goal is to create a new vision and new culture for the education system and build a community that values education. Implement high quality standards that values and embrace children's creativity and innate talents.