

# OPINION

## Testing must be done right

A reader replied to my letter in which I bemoaned the legislature ruling that passing three out of five standardized tests was good enough to graduate high school. That meant Texas was telling the world that, for us, a 60 percent student is college material.

The reader implied I said all high school students are planning on going to college. I did not. The reader mentioned alternatives such as trade school and the military. I agree, but, they all require tests. Would we want the same standards to apply to them? Would you want the state to license a plumber who is just a little more than half right on a dripping faucet? How about a cosmetologist who only had to do six of your nails properly? Would you want go into battle with

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the possibility the soldier on your flank is wrong 40 percent of the time?

The reader mentions that not everyone tests well, and that to graduate it should be sufficient to pass all classes. That would mean no state-wide test standardization. If that is a final decision it is fine with me to have none. My problem is that if we are to have the exams, a passing score of 60 percent is ludicrous. Let's decide: Either do it right — or don't do it at all.

But don't do it this way.

**Star Carey,  
Canyon Lake**