What's wrong with league tables?

Misleading: Publicly ranking schools based on students' results in national tests presents an invalid and misleading picture of school performance.

Inaccurate: The national tests were never designed to be used to compare schools. Experts say the results are not accurate enough to be used this way.

Damaging: Schools where students do not do well in literacy and numeracy tests are likely to be unfairly branded as 'failing' schools

Demoralising: It takes schools many years to throw off the tag of a 'failing school' and it is demoralising for students, teachers and parents. It makes it much harder for those schools to improve the performance of their students

Unnecessary: Politicians don't need schools to be publicly ranked to know which ones need help and more resources. Parents can already access relevant information on school performance by directly contacting schools.

AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION UNION AEU

www.aeufederal.org.au

Authorised by Angelo Gavrielatos, Federal President, Australian Education Union, 120 Clarendon Street, Southbank 3006.

Why we must stop school league tables

League Tables: The problem

Within months the Federal Government will publish for the first time the test results of every school in the country.

Unless that information is protected it will be taken by the media and used to create and publish misleading league tables.

League tables rank schools just on their test scores. It is a crude and simplistic measure that does not provide a true picture of how a school is performing.

Farrar Secondary College	84.1	**83**
Torrens High School	82.6	**81**
Pearce College	79	**79.3**
John Firth College	78	**80**
Meredith City College	77	**77.9**

"Failing Schools"

The publication of league tables has profound negative consequences for students, teachers and parents.

Those schools who do not achieve high scores and are dubbed by the media as "failing" or the "worst schools" are often those in the most disadvantaged areas.

Unfairly branding these schools as failing has the effect of magnifying that disadvantage.

It does immense damage to the confidence and self-esteem of the students, undermines the relationship of trust between teachers and parents and makes teaching and learning much more difficult.

Parents, Teachers and Principals Are United

Across Australia parents, teachers and principals have all spoken out against league tables.

They say allowing league tables will damage education in Australia.

But state and federal governments are refusing to act.

We need to work together to make sure students and schools are not damaged by league tables.

The Federal Government needs to pass laws which will stop this misuse of test scores.

Parents don't want schools named and shamed

Sydney Morning Herald, September 14, 2009

Help Stop League Tables

We need your support to stop the publication of damaging league tables.

Visit the Australian Education Union's website

www.aeufederal.org.au

There you can send a message directly to the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, the Minister for Education Julia Gillard and your local MP telling them to take action.