

# High School Is a Different Place Today

- **There is more high-stakes testing.**
- **Many standards are unreasonable for struggling students.**
- **There are rigid promotion gates.**
- **There are more unfunded mandates.**
- **Punitive measures are offered as solutions.**
- **The media has assumed a “pounce position” against public schools.**
- **There is too much curriculum to teach in the existing time frame.**
- **Many politicians have latched on to our “failing public schools” as a ticket to being elected.**
- **Principals and teachers have less authority and control over their jobs.**
- **Many systems have large school settings, and many schools have large class sizes.**
- **Schools are now required to test a full range of high-needs students who are poor test takers.**
- **There are often insufficient alternative programs for the “tweeners and the crackers.”**
- **Schools are expected to teach many curriculum add-ons designed to address family and societal ills.**