PEARSON’S HISTORY OF TESTING PROBLEMS
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FairTest: National Center for Fair & Open Testing
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1998 California – test score delivery delayed

1999-2000 Arizona – 12,000 tests misgraded due to flawed answer key

2000 Florida – test score delivery delayed resulting in $4 million fine

2000 Minnesota – misgraded 45,739 graduation tests leads to lawsuit with $11 million settlement – judge found "years of quality control problems" and a "culture emphasizing profitability and cost-cutting.”
http://www.news.minnesota.publicradio.org/features/200211/25_pugmiret_testsettle/ (FairTest consulted with plaintiffs’ attorneys)

2000 Washington – 204,000 writing WASL exams rescored

2002 Florida -- dozens of school districts received no state grades for their 2002 scores because of a “programming error” at the DOE. One Montessori school never received scores because NCS Pearson claimed not to have received the tests.

2005 Michigan -- scores delayed and fines levied per contract

2005 Virginia -- computerized test misgraded – five students awarded $5,000 scholarships
http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_8014/is_20051015/ai_n41291590/

2005-2006 SAT college admissions test – 4400 tests wrongly scored; $3 million settlement after lawsuit (note FairTest was an expert witness for plaintiffs)

2007-2011 Mississippi – subcontractor programs correct answer as incorrect resulting in erroneous results for almost four years during which time 126 students flunked the exam due to that wrongly scored item. Auditors criticized Pearson’s quality control checks, and the firm offered $600,000 in scholarships as compensation


2008-2009 Arkansas -- first graders forced to retake exam because real test used for practice

2009-2010 Wyoming – Pearson’s new computer adaptive PAWS flops; state declares company in “complete default of the contract;” $5.1 million fine accepted after negotiations but not pursued by state governor
http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article_263ceb44-833a-11e0-911d-001cc4e002e0.html

2010 Florida -- test score delivery delayed by more than a month – nearly $15 million in fines imposed and paid.

2010 Minnesota -- results from online science tests taken by 180,000 students delayed due to scoring error
http://www.twincities.com/ci_15533234?nclick_check=1#
2011 Florida – some writing exams delivered to districts without cover sheets, revealing subject students would be asked to write about http://www.tampabay.com/news/education/testing/testmaker-pearson-replaces-faulty-fcats-missing-cover-sheets/1153508


2011 Guan – score release delayed because results based on flawed comparison data; government seeks reimbursement -- http://www.guampdn.com/article/20111021/NEWS01/110210303

2011 Illinois – 144 student in five Chicago schools wrongly received zeroes due to scoring error. The state sought nearly $1.7 million from Pearson, which could not explain how the errors occurred.

2011 Iowa – State Ethics and Campaign Finance Disclosure Board opens investigation of Iowa Education Department director Jason Glass for participating in all-expenses-paid trip to Brazil sponsored by Pearson Foundation -- http://news.yahoo.com/formal-complaint-against-iowa-education-chief-190455698.html


2012 New York – “Pineapple and the Hare” nonsense test question removed from exams after bloggers demonstrate that it was previously administered in at least half a dozen other states – http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/21/nyregion/standardized-testing-is-blamed-for-question-about-a-sleeveless-pineapple.html

2012 New York – More than two dozen additional errors found in New York State tests developed by Pearson -  
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304203604577394492500145150.html

2012 Florida – After percentage of fourth grades found “proficient” plunges from 81% to 27% in one year, state Board of Education emergency meeting “fixes” scores on FCAT Writing Test by changing definition of proficiency. http://www.clickorlando.com/news/passing-score-lowered-for-fcat-writing-exam/-/1637132/13396234/-/k1ckc2z/-/index.html

2012 **New York** – Parents have their children boycott “field test” of new exam questions because of concerns about Pearson’s process [http://rochesterhomepage.net/fulltext?nxd_id=322122](http://rochesterhomepage.net/fulltext?nxd_id=322122)


2012 **New York** – More than 7,000 New York City elementary and middle school students wrongly blocked from graduation by inaccurate “preliminary scores” on Pearson tests [http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/ed_blunder_mad_grads_JI2z8N6tA6Td0FGiwYSraP](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/ed_blunder_mad_grads_JI2z8N6tA6Td0FGiwYSraP)


2012 **Mississippi** – Pearson pays $623,000 for scoring error repeated over four years that blocked graduation for five students and wrongly lowered scores for 121 others [http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20121025/NEWS01/310240052/Pearson-North-America-scoring-error-prevented-5-Mississippi-students-from-graduating-affected-121-others](http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20121025/NEWS01/310240052/Pearson-North-America-scoring-error-prevented-5-Mississippi-students-from-graduating-affected-121-others)


2013 **Worldwide** – Pearson VUE testing centers around the globe experience major technical problems, leaving thousands unable to take scheduled exams or register for new ones [http://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2013/04/26/pearson-vue-test-centers-experience-major-problems](http://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2013/04/26/pearson-vue-test-centers-experience-major-problems)

2013 **Texas** – State Auditor finds inadequate monitoring of Pearson’s contract: vendor determined costs of assessment changes without sufficient oversight and failed to disclose hiring nearly a dozen former state testing agency staff [http://www.texastribune.org/2013/07/16/state-auditor-finds-testing-contract-oversight-lac/](http://www.texastribune.org/2013/07/16/state-auditor-finds-testing-contract-oversight-lac/)

2013 **Virginia** – 4,000 parents receive inaccurate test scorecards due to Pearson error in converting scores to proficiency levels [http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/pearson-miscalculates-scorecards-for-more-than-4000-va-students/2013/08/13/5620cc42-042d-11e3-a07f-49ddc7417125_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/pearson-miscalculates-scorecards-for-more-than-4000-va-students/2013/08/13/5620cc42-042d-11e3-a07f-49ddc7417125_story.html)


2014 National – Pearson notifies students who took the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) in 2011 that their exams had been miscored [http://dianeravitch.net/2014/04/17/pearsons-errors-matter/](http://dianeravitch.net/2014/04/17/pearsons-errors-matter/)


2014 Texas – Pearson emails out two test questions to teachers days before the exam is administered [http://educationblog.dallasnews.com/2014/05/questions-on-two-staar-exams-were-accidentally-emailed-out-last-month.html/](http://educationblog.dallasnews.com/2014/05/questions-on-two-staar-exams-were-accidentally-emailed-out-last-month.html/)


2014 Texas – Pearson goes after University of Texas–Austin education professor who testified that the company’s products do not measure what they claim to measure [http://www.texasobserver.org/walter-stroup-standardized-testing-pearson/](http://www.texasobserver.org/walter-stroup-standardized-testing-pearson/)


2014 Minnesota – State expresses concern that Pearson computer testing technology is outmoded and cannot support new online exams [http://www.twincities.com/localnews/ci_27211647/minnesota-schools-hit-glitches-online-testing](http://www.twincities.com/localnews/ci_27211647/minnesota-schools-hit-glitches-online-testing)


2015 **California** – Pearson battles over award of state testing contract to rival firm http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2015/04/22/testing-titans-pearson-ets-battle-over-calif.html

2015 **New York** – State must clear up mystery of unscored test questions https://citylimits.org/2015/03/16/ny-state-must-clear-up-mystery-of-missing-test-items/

2015 **Minnesota** – Statewide testing suspended due to Pearson computerized administration system collapse http://www.grandforksherald.com/news/education/3728107-minnesota-suspends-clunky-online-proficiency-testing


2015 **Virginia** – State testing interrupted three times because of Pearson testing system problems http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/va-testing-interrupted-three-times-because-of-issues-with-pearson-system/2015/05/20/3243a030-ff38-11e4-8b6c-0dcce21e223d_story.html


2015 **Minnesota** – Pearson Pays $5.7 million in fines and services for testing screw ups http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Welcome/News/PressRel/023455


2016 **New Jersey** – Statewide testing cancelled due to computer problems http://www.nj.com/education/2016/04/parcc_testing_postponed_statewide_after_technical.html


2016 **Great Britain** – Answers published online day before test administration http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2016/05/10/sats-answers-published-online-by-mistake-for-second-time/

2016 **Indiana** – Test score reporting delayed again http://www.journalgazette.net/news/local/indiana/ISTEP-scores-again-delayed-13896176

2017 **Mississippi** – Nearly 1000 tests misgraded; graduation may have been affected http://www.clarionledger.com/story/news/2017/06/16/mde-testing-company-misgraded-nearly-1-000-exams/405130001/


