

**Test Preparation:
Considering the Appropriateness of these Activities**

A Professional Development Module for Iowa Educators

An online version of this module can be accessed at:

<http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/blogcategory/497/920/>

Prepared for

Iowa Department of Education

Prepared by

Center for Evaluation and Assessment
The University of Iowa

Table of Contents

Background	ii
Study Plan	iii
Introduction	1
Part 1: What is “test preparation?”.....	4
Part 2: Why do educators feel that test-preparation activities are necessary and/or important?	5
Part 3: Why should educators care about the “appropriateness” of test preparation	8
Part 4: How can the appropriateness of a test-preparation activity be determined?.....	10
Part 5: What should educators do when they feel pressured to use inappropriate practices or they are aware of such practices being conducted in their school?.....	28
Part 6: What can/should be done to increase the likelihood that scores are a true reflection of what students know and are able to do in the areas covered by the tests?	31
Closing	39
Instructional Aides:	
Guidance from Iowa Testing Programs (August 15, 2005)	A1
Scenario Activity	B1
Scenario Consensus Guide	C1
Closing Activity	D1
Closing Activity Feedback	E1