

# Foreword

**T**he last 25 years can be characterized, at least in part, by efforts to improve America's public schools.

Unfortunately, while it is widely recognized that improved test results are the national measuring stick, there has been relatively little practical, research-based information available to teachers on how to help students improve their performance on these high-stakes tests. Aside from the obvious need for the effective teaching of significant content, are there additional ways teachers can help students improve their performance?

Carolyn Chapman and Rita King offer numerous specific, research-based suggestions in this book, *Test Success in the Brain-Compatible Classroom*. The premise of their work is that student success on tests is not accidental but the result of insight, planning, rehearsal, and preparation. This book contains ideas and suggestions that represent the best of both worlds, research and classroom experience. The book reflects the authors' deep understanding of the latest research and their many years of successful classroom teaching. Their goal is to transform the dreaded test day into a day of "celebration of the brain's phenomenal abilities."

Who can benefit from the book? Just about everyone—particularly school administrators, teachers, and parents. Readers will learn about such topics as ways of communicating content for ideal learning, memory strategies for retaining and retrieving more information, test-taking skills to integrate with all subjects, strategies to use with informal and formal tests throughout the year, techniques to teach individual test-taking habits, and ideas to create positive learning environments in the school and home. And there is much, much more.

Carolyn Chapman and Rita King have made it their mission to create a major paradigm shift regarding attitudes toward test taking. They call for a change in direction or, more specifically, a change in attitude—a change from negative to positive approaches to all tests. The ideas in this book will empower teachers, parents, and—most importantly—students to improve test performance.

—Dr. Robert Eaker

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