



# An Age of Accountability

How Standardized Testing Came to Dominate American Schools and Compromise Education

by John L. Rury

---

## DESCRIPTION

*An Age of Accountability* highlights the role of test-based accountability as a policy framework in American education from 1970 to 2020. For more than half a century, the quest to hold schools and educators accountable for academic achievement has relied almost exclusively on standardized assessment. The theory of change embedded in almost all test-based accountability programs held that assessment with stipulated consequences could lead to major improvements in schools. This was accomplished politically by proclaiming lofty goals of attaining universal proficiency and closing achievement gaps, which repeatedly failed to materialize. But even after very clear disappointments, no other policy framework has emerged to challenge its hegemony. The American public today has little confidence in institutions to improve the quality of goods and services they provide, especially in the public sector. As a consequence, many Americans continue to believe that accountability remains a vital necessity, even if educators and policy scholars disagree.

### Paperback

9781978832275, \$42.95

### Hardback

9781978832282, \$150.00

### eBook

9781978832299, \$42.95

### PDF

9781978832312, \$42.95

**Date:** October 2023

**Pages:** 246



---

## AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

**JOHN L. RURY** is a professor emeritus of education at the University of Kansas. He is the author of many publications, including *Creating the Suburban School Advantage: Race, Localism and Inequality in an American Metropolis*.

**Get 30% OFF • Use code RUP30**

Free Shipping in the USA • USA & Latin American: [rutgersuniversitypress.org](https://rutgersuniversitypress.org) • 1-800-621-2736

Canada: <https://www.ubcpublishing.com/rutgers-university-press> • Rest of the World: <https://mngbookshop.co.uk/publisher/rutgers-university-press/>

Booksellers / bulk sales: [sales@rutgersuniversitypress.org](mailto:sales@rutgersuniversitypress.org) • Examination and desk copies: [rutgersuniversitypress.org/educator](https://rutgersuniversitypress.org/educator)