

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 8 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Barnhart, Berger, Freeman, Garrett, Holvey, Wingard, Hunt, Olson

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Victoria Cox, Committee Staff

Meeting Dates: 6/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt guidelines for best practices for administering state-wide student assessments. Specifies that a student in kindergarten through grade eight who has met or exceeded state standards is excused from retaking the test.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Instructional time lost to testing
- Reduction of unnecessary and repetitive testing
- Limited improvement resulting from repetitive testing
- Alternative assessments available for kindergarten through grade eight
- Lack of alternative assessments for students in grades nine through twelve
- Appropriate use of retesting in grades nine through twelve to measure interim progress

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Oregon Statewide Assessment Program purposes are to: (1) provide information on individual student achievement on performance standards set by SBE and the benchmark grades leading to it; (2) provide information for policy decisions by the Legislature, the Governor, SBE and local school districts; (3) support instructional program improvement efforts; and (4) inform the public about student achievement in Oregon schools.

Oregon Statewide Assessment is a criterion-referenced assessment based on the Oregon Content Standards. Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) is the primary Oregon statewide assessment system available in mathematics, reading/literature, science and social sciences. Performance standards were established by panels of teachers, curriculum specialists and community members who reviewed test items anchored to the achievement scale and determined the score a student would have to receive as evidence of having met challenging academic standards. Assessment scores are reported in specific skill areas, enabling educators to identify aspects of the curriculum needing improvement.

Senate Bill 801 recognizes that schools currently have no standard guidelines on assessment test administration and that students who have met or exceeded state standards retake the tests. The measure requires SBE to adopt guidelines for best practices of administering state-wide assessment tests and excusing students who have met or exceeded the state standards from future tests.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.