

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Bonamici, George, Shields, Hass
Nays: 0
Exc.: Morse
Prepared By: Linda Lindholm, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 4/14, 4/19

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- National Standards and No Child Left Behind
- Impact of over-testing on children and instruction time
- Strength based education
- Achievement gap and performance evaluation
- Teaching to test incentives for districts
- State Report Card and purpose of assessments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Oregon Statewide Assessment Program purposes are: (1) to provide information on individual student achievement on performance standards set by SBE and the benchmark grades leading to it; (2) to provide information for policy decisions by the Legislature, the Governor, SBE and local school districts; (3) to support instructional program improvement efforts; and (4) to 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 main Oregon statewide assessment system available in mathematics, reading/literature, science and social sciences. Performance Standards were set 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 currently schools do not have standard guidelines on assessment test administration and that students who have met or exceeded state standards are made to retake the tests. This 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 on prior tests.

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