

Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 10:34 AM
To: Rep Gelser
Subject: HB 4150 Proficiency Grading

Representative Gelser,

I am writing to ask that you support HB 4150, to remove proficiency grade reports.

Proficiency reports focus on Oregon Academic Standards, including, in part, CCSS & the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) data-points. The results of the SBA will be slow in arriving compared to the year of the test. This year's pilot results data are expected in the first week of December, at least 6 months from the date of the pilot-SBA. There is no reason to be concerned about that structure or that of the SBA, except reporting [progress] including an external reference to SBA is difficult when time separates the report date from the data so significantly. By the very nature of the SBA [intent to measure critical thinking], it is impossible to "teach to" SBA. As will all tests, there will be many adjustments to the SBA. Thus, it seems premature and sends a disingenuous message to staff, students and their families to also report, item-by-item, the progress on the Common Core Standards on which the SBA is [we assume] crafted. If, in the fullness of time, there is urgency to know the intimate details of progress on the learning targets of CCSS/SBA, we can go through a 3-to-5 year augmented process across the state to implement a new instructional and grading process helping out with SBA, CCSS and whatever other education initiatives might be relevant at that moment.

Currently, however, respectfully, we need to focus on 1) step-wise better instruction, 2) the new Educator Evaluation system with student performance goals and 3) CCSS. We are quite busy focused on improved teaching & learning and see no benefit to spending time on proficiency grade reports.

Thank you for voting in support of HB4150.
Walt Wegener
Superintendent, Baker SD 5J