



# Oregon Department of Education

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HB 2680: Prohibits use of SBAC scores to evaluate schools or educators

House Committee on Education

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Good afternoon Chair Doherty and members of the committee. For the record I am Derek Brown, Director of Assessment at the Department of Education and am here to testify on HB 2680. HB 2680 prohibits the use of results of the new Smarter Balanced assessment to be used to rate schools or evaluate the performance of teachers or administrators. It also directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction to convene a work group to evaluate the results of the SBAC assessments and determine how best to use those results to measure student learning and inform instructional decisions. The department is neutral on the bill.

### Background:

The State Board of Education has the responsibility of adopting academic standards for K-12 education. It has done so in the subject areas of English language arts, math, science, history, geography, economics, civics, the arts, and world languages.

In 2010, the board adopted the Common Core State Standards in the subject areas of math and English language arts. Common Core State Standards were developed by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers to standardize what students should know at each grade level and make those standards rigorous enough that high school students would be academically prepared to be successful in college, training, or careers.

In 2013, the board adopted the assessments developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced) as the assessment for the Common Core State Standards in the area of math and English language arts. Unlike the existing OAKS assessments aligned to the old Oregon content standards which relied primarily on multiple choice items to measure student knowledge and skills, the Smarter Balanced assessments require students to use deeper critical thinking skills and demonstrate multiple types of knowledge through a computer adaptive segment as well as a performance task.

While about 70% of students successfully passed the OAKS, it is projected that only about 40% of students will pass the more difficult SBAC.

Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), states are required to use student assessment data for systems accountability (e.g., schools and districts). While federal law also now requires states to use student assessment data to evaluate the effectiveness of teachers

beginning in the 2014-15 school year, in November 2014, Oregon successfully obtained a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education permitting ODE to omit use of the 2014-15 assessment results from its educator evaluation process. ODE is currently in the process of developing its ESEA waiver request for 2014-15 systems accountability, which it plans to submit to the U.S. Department of Education in mid-February 2015. Currently, ODE is considering two possible scenarios for its waiver request and will convene a group of stakeholders to make a final decision on which scenario to pursue on February 12, 2015:

- Scenario #1: Oregon asks for a “pause” in school ratings for 2014-15. This would mean that we wouldn’t use the 2014-15 Smarter Balanced assessments in school ratings at the end of 2014-15.
- Scenario #2: Oregon does not ask for a “pause” in school ratings. This would mean that in our ESEA waiver we would commit to using the 2014-15 Smarter Balanced assessments in 2014-15.

#### Issue:

Although the Common Core State Standards was adopted in 2010, not all districts have completed their transition to the new standards and some educators are concerned that they have not had adequate training on the new standards. In addition, 2014-15 is the first year in which the Smarter Balanced assessments will be administered operationally, so it remains unfamiliar to both Oregon students and educators.

#### Legislation:

HB 2680 essentially puts a “hold” on the use of Smarter Balanced student assessment data to rate schools and evaluate teachers. It also directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction to convene a work group to evaluate the results of the SBAC assessments and determine how best to use those results to measure student learning and inform instructional decisions moving forward.

Given that Oregon currently has a waiver in place pausing the use of Smarter Balanced data for educator evaluations and given that Oregon will be submitting its systems accountability waiver request later this month, potentially seeking a pause for systems accountability as well, the proposed legislation aligns with current policies within ODE.

#### Concerns:

To inform future systems accountability models, ODE seeks clarification whether HB 2680 would also prohibit the use of the 2014-15 Smarter Balanced assessment data in school ratings for 2015-16 and beyond for purposes of growth model calculations.

#### Fiscal:

While the direction to convene a work group to evaluate the use of Smarter Balanced assessment data would not require new permanent staff at the department, it would require existing staff’s time to coordinate and facilitate the workgroup. In addition, ODE would need to compensate workgroup participants and provide for other ancillary costs (e.g., travel). ODE anticipates that the total costs to convene the work group would be approximately \$63,724. This cost represents approximately \$42,724 for ODE staff time, as well as approximately \$21,000 in meeting-related costs (assuming four meetings costing approximately \$5,245 each).